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to open at Berkeley Rep.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Marching for our lives

**AIDS vigil takes on
new significance
this year**

by Katie Szymanski

History often swings full circle, and with AIDS there is no exception. Facing a rise in HIV infections and a younger population that has not watched their friends die rapidly, community members will remember the dead and fight complacency at the annual AIDS Candlelight Vigil, initiated in 1983 in San Francisco and New York and now the world's largest grassroots event, taking place in over 400 cities and towns in over 60 countries.

This year's local march on Sunday, May 20, will be led by people with AIDS holding the original banner from the first march in 1983 proclaiming, "Fighting for Our Lives." The procession leaves the intersection of Market and Castro at 8 p.m. and marches to the San Francisco Public Library, where there will be speeches, music, performance art, and remembrances held on the steps.

Sunday's march — run entirely by volunteers and fiscally sponsored by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence and co-sponsored by Survive AIDS — comes just weeks before the official 20-year anniversary of the emergence of the AIDS epidemic, and is significant in many ways. The march has already seen the involvement and outreach of many different groups who seek to make the event socially uplifting as well as a reminder that AIDS is indeed still a very unglamorous killer.

Although always in need of funds (the march spends money on publicity as well as necessities like sign lan-

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B-52's set to rock Pride

by Katie Szymanski

The B-52's will headline the main stage entertainment for the 31st annual San Francisco LGBT Pride Parade and Celebration, to be held the weekend of June 23-24, organizers announced this week.

Also a hugely popular draw, MeShell Ndegeocello will head up the new venue known as "Nectar," an all women's stage for deejay spinning, live music, and other performances. Other new venues at Pride this year include "The Soul of Pride," a stage programmed by the African American community sponsored by the Black Brothers Esteem program; an enhanced "Youth Zone" centered on a booth created by Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center; and an elders area staffed by New Leaf Community Outreach Services.

Late Tuesday, May 15, it was also announced that openly transgender Israeli singing sensation Dana International will perform. In May 1998, she won the Eurovision Award for her song, "Diva." In Israel, she is one of the country's most popular artists, and although religious conservatives have tried to have her music and videos banned, she has become a symbol for freedom, power, and individual expression.

These incredible developments come from a more community-focused way of planning, according to Pride President Cecilia Chung, who calls this year's event the most inclusive in history.

"It's exciting to see all the new venues reflecting more of our diversity and putting greater meaning into the event," said Chung. "We've come a long way and continue to trail-blaze into the future."

The B-52's first came into stardom in the 1980s with their often gender-bent costumes and hits like "Love Shack," "Rock Lobster," and "Roam." Commenting on the upcoming performance, openly gay B-52's member Keith Strickland said in a statement, "Put on your drag and call your friends. Let's march down to City Hall and take action in the spirit of those before us. We must not be ambivalent. Now is our time to continue the commitment to our own liberation. Come out, take part, be seen and heard for yourself and future generations."

Ndegeocello, made famous by songs like "If that's your boyfriend he wasn't last night," and "Leviticus: faggot," is openly bisexual, a darling of the lesbian community, and a well-respected talent in mainstream music circles who plays a mean guitar.

Other acts expected at Pride include local talent Tribe 8 and Oné on the Nectar stage, and Blue Period, Mark Weigle, Gwen Avery, the San Francisco Mime Troupe, Linda Low, Veronica Klaus, and the Kinsey Sicks on the main stage. The main stage program will also include a domestic partners ceremony and the fourth annual Stand Against Hate rally.

"Seventy-five percent of the performers are local this year," commented main stage producer Ken Bunch, "and the lineup is more diverse, political, entertaining, and fun than ever before."

The theme of this year's Pride celebration is "Queerific," and the parade and festival are expected to draw even larger crowds than the

The B-52's will headline this year's Pride celebration.



750,000 people who attended last year.

"We're always trying to outdo ourselves," said Chung, "and I have a strong feeling that this year is going to be even bigger, considering the new stages, and the fact that we are always looking at different ways to include new venues."

Pride officials noted that the B-52's ap-

pearance is made possible by a sponsorship from United Airlines and the San Francisco Chronicle.

The program for Pride is always expanding, with new performers and speakers added by the week. Check the Pride Web site at www.sfpide.org for updates and more information. ▼

Leal launches re-election bid

by Cynthia Laird

Declaring that despite volatile financial markets, San Francisco has led other counties on its investment returns, city Treasurer Susan Leal kicked off her re-election campaign Monday, May 14 surrounded by supporters in the Wattis Room at the San Francisco Symphony.

Leal, a former supervisor and chair of the board's Finance Committee, was elected treasurer four years ago. The treasurer's post is one of several city department head jobs in which voters choose the boss. According to the Department of Elections, no one has yet filed to run against Leal, though the deadline is not until August for the November election.

During her remarks, Leal sought to emphasize her independence from San Francisco's two warring political factions — those who support Mayor Willie Brown and those who support Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano. Supervisor Sophie Maxwell introduced Leal. "She's



Treasurer Susan Leal

brought fortune to San Francisco," Maxwell said.

"She's the bridge between the old board and the new board, between the old City Hall and the new City Hall," Leal said of Maxwell. "She's not interested what camp you're in, whether you're in the Tom [Ammiano] camp or the Willie [Brown] camp."

"I run a city department. I like running a city department," Leal said.

As treasurer, Leal's office is responsible for overseeing the city's financial investments and collecting taxes. The office employs about 200 people. "Basically, I'm your money lady," Leal quipped, attempting to interject some humor into the detail-oriented world of city finance.

Maxwell, the board's only female member, pointed out that when Leal, a Latina lesbian, was a supervisor, she was one of the sponsors of the landmark equal benefits ordinance that required companies doing business with the city to offer benefits to domestic partners of employees if they offer those benefits to employ-

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Outpouring of support for Smith at benefit

by Cynthia Laird

An overflow crowd filled San Francisco's Citizen Cake Restaurant last Wednesday, May 9, as the gay and lesbian community rallied to help raise money for Sharon Smith, the partner of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple, as she begins her uphill fight to change current law that does not allow gay or lesbian couples to receive equal status for wrongful death claims.

Smith has filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, the caretakers involved in the fatal January 26 attack on Whipple, who was a popular lacrosse coach at St. Mary's College and Smith's long-time partner. Smith faces a tough legal battle since current California law prohibits unmarried couples the right to collect in wrongful death cases.

Smith has said any money she wins in a wrongful death suit would go to the Whipple Foundation.

A crowd estimated at over 100 people attended last week's benefit. According to Terry Alvey, with the Friends of Diane organization who helped organize the event, at least \$35,000 was raised. "This by far surpassed any of our expectations," Alvey told the *Bay Area Reporter*. The fundraiser included a live auction of gourmet cakes baked by local chefs. Elizabeth Falkner and her partner, Sabrina Riddle, owners of Citizen Cake, were extremely pleased with the turnout, and some of the cakes were auctioned for over \$150 each. "The most important thank you I have is for all of you," Smith told the crowd during her brief remarks. "This is how I get through."



Sharon Smith, left, and Kate Kendell at last week's benefit.

The Human Rights Campaign was involved in the event, and Executive Director Elizabeth Birch flew in from Washington, D.C. to address the crowd. "I'm so proud of Sharon, she is taking her grief and channeling it into something positive," Birch said.

Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and who serves as co-counsel to Smith in the wrongful death lawsuit, spoke of the quickness with which someone's life can change.

"On January 26 Sharon Smith's life was altered, and six days later our lives changed," Kendell said, referring to the day of the fatal attack on Whipple and the time several days later when the community learned Whipple and Smith were partners. "From that moment on, Sharon's been speaking out."

Kendell added that Smith not only lost her partner, she soon realized that current state law made her relationship with Whipple "legally invisible and irrelevant." "She decided to try and change

that status," Kendell said. "Sharon Smith was a spouse, her relationship with Diane was a marriage, and the law should recognize that simple truth."

Michael Cardozo, Smith's lead attorney in the wrongful death suit, added, "When I talk about Sharon and her relationship with Diane, I don't understand society's problem. Those laws will change and they will change with this case. Unfortunately, it takes a case like this to show injustices. Sharon has such dignity and intelligence. She's represented the gay community and she is a woman I truly love."

"We will win this and we will get these laws changed," Cardozo said. ▽

People interested in contacting the Friends of Diane can e-mail TerryAlvey@aol.com. For information on the Whipple Foundation, go to www.whipplefoundation.org.

Legal showdown looms in dog mauling case

by Ed Walsh

Attorneys in the case of dog mauling victim Diane Whipple are headed for a legal showdown on Monday, May 21.

Lawyers for Robert Noel and Marjorie Knoller will ask a judge to throw out the homicide charges against the attorney couple on the grounds that the lesser charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being preempts prosecutors from filing murder or manslaughter charges.

Noel is being charged with involuntary manslaughter. Knoller, who was with the dogs at the time of the fatal January 26 attack, faces a charge of second-degree murder. Each also faces a charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being.

Prosecutors quickly dismissed the defense strategy.

"I think it's fair to say it's a novel and unfounded theory they're advancing," said San Francisco Assistant District Attorney Jim Hammer.

One legal observer told the *Bay Area Reporter* that although the judge may side with the defense

attorneys' arguments, that won't keep prosecutors from pressing the homicide charges.

"It's a little bit overstating it to think that they would actually get the homicide charges thrown out for good," said Peter Keane, dean of the Golden Gate University Law School. "Even if the judge rules that the specific statute relating to the death by a mischievous dog prevails over the general statute of homicide, which I think the judge may have to do under the legal rules, all the D.A. has to do then is to file an amended indictment [dropping the mischievous animal charges]."

Meanwhile, both Noel and Knoller remain in San Francisco County jail on a combined bail of \$3 million. Noel's court-appointed attorney, Bruce Hotchkiss, told the *B.A.R.* that he likely will file a motion to reduce bail this week.

Neither Noel nor Knoller entered pleas during their arraignment last Wednesday, May 9. Knoller missed the scheduled morning arraignment for an undisclosed medical problem. She appeared for the rescheduled afternoon arraignment in a wheelchair.

The Wednesday morning pro-

ceeding was attended by 14 first and second graders from the Freeman School, a private elementary school that District Attorney Terence Hallinan's daughter attends. Hallinan's daughter was among the group. Several courtroom observers told the *B.A.R.* that they were surprised to see the students in court because they didn't think the proceedings of a criminal court were appropriate for small children.

"The judge should throw them all out and reprimand the teacher," said observer and mother Inez Everette. "That's really appalling. Even though you want them to learn what's going on, this is really above their heads. They are going to be going home and asking their parents questions about all this."

"It's ridiculous," agreed observer Esia Powell. "I wouldn't have my child here."

Hallinan spokesman, Fred Gardner, told the *B.A.R.* that the children were there to get a tour of the Hall of Justice.

"He [Hallinan] knew there were going to be no horrific details," said Gardner in reaction to the observers' comments. "I think that's kind of a cheap shot." ▽

Biking for AIDS



Family members of the late Ron Wilmot, from left his mother, Pat Wilmot; partner, Jim O'Donnell; and sister, Pam Perillo; took part in Project Inform's bike ride named after Ron, who was an avid bicyclist. The May 12 event in San Francisco's Golden Gate Park included over 100 participants and raised \$88,000 - including \$14,000 in in-kind donations - for the HIV/AIDS advocacy organization.

Bigotry's a drag

SF Zoo says no to queer photo shoot

by Katie Szymanski

If a local little girl gets a bit tomboyish or a Bay Area boy decides to play with dolls, don't blame the San Francisco Zoo: it's a family institution, and by such standards, anything gender-queer is not allowed.

That summarizes the information given to Lu Read and DragStrip Promotions as well as to the *Bay Area Reporter* upon an initial inquiry. Read, the talent behind such well-known drag king characters as Fudgie Frottag, approached the institution's petting zoo about scheduling a private photography session with the animals for a poster to publicize an upcoming benefit for Pets Are Wonderful Support. Although Read and his posse could have posed in the barnyard during regular business hours, a photo session typically requires a little flexibility and a lot of leg room, and the hordes of visiting children would have presented a few obstacles. So a phone call was made to Nancy Chan, the zoo's publicity director, to ask for an hour of alone time, during which three drag kings would stage a "cowboy" type backdrop and snap some shots.

"I explained to her what a drag king was, and she said she had no problem with it, but she had to check with someone else there," said Read. "The following day I called back to learn that we couldn't do the shoot with their consent because it 'conveyed the wrong message.'"

Someone at the top of the animal chain reportedly told Chan that



From left, Barry "Fresh" White, Zach the Sheltie, Fudgie Frottag (aka Lu Read), Slim Sphinx, and Electro in a previous promotional photo.

the zoo, being a family place, did not want to send "that message."

Whatever "that message" is has yet to be explained by the institution that hosts the annual "X-rated" Valentine's Day tour of animals mating. Chan, who eventually told the *B.A.R.* that there "must be a misunderstanding," also admitted that she had told DragStrip that there were some "very conservative people" at the zoo.

"But I was referring to our visitors," said Chan.

When Chan was reminded by the *B.A.R.* that these were the same visitors who embarked on the much-hyped and popular X-rated mating tour, she answered, "That tour is for adults only. The petting zoo is for children and families."

Perhaps realizing that this was not exactly the answer one would expect from a person who must have been "misunderstood," Chan

elaborated, "I mostly said 'no' because of the timing. We're expanding the children's zoo, and as a P.R. person I didn't want a lot of different messages out there. There aren't even any goats and sheep available right now."

Read, who noted that he was refused the photo shoot on the same day that local media headlines screamed the news about the passage of transgender health benefits for city employees, said he is still shocked by the anti-transgender statements from the zoo.

"If I had just said, 'Can we do a cowboy photo shoot,' it wouldn't have been an issue."

Therein lies the irony: the drag kings did not even have to "come out" as gender queer; they probably could have passed as regular guys staging a western photo shoot for a charitable benefit. But

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LEGAL QUESTION?

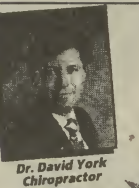


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PlanetOut picks up \$8.2 mil in funding

by David Fraser

PlanetOut Partners Inc. has closed an initial new round of funding worth more than \$8.2 million, bolstering its market position as it targets gays and lesbians in cyberspace.

Investors in this round include AOL Time Warner Ventures, JP-Morgan Partners, Flatiron Partners, Baroda Ventures, Jess.Hansen CoVe, IDG Ventures, Petunia Resources in concert with MacLuan Digital, the U.K.-based Episode 1, and private investor Ric Weiland.

The announcement, titled "Industry Heavyweights Continue to See Value of Leading Company Addressing Affluent Gay and Lesbian Market," points to repeat investors

and new ones. AOL has been a prominent investor, among others.

"While most dot-coms struggle to prove their business models or have failed to obtain funding, top-tier investors continue to recognize the unique position PlanetOut Partners holds as the leading company serving lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered consumers globally," said the firm's CEO, Lowell Selvin.

"We see this funding round as a ringing endorsement of our business model, of our track record to execute on our strategic and operating plans, and of our goal to generate positive cash flow by year-end by delivering tailored products and services to this underserved, affluent, and significant market."

Critics have pointed to Plan-

etOut Partners as a classic example of media concentration in a few hands, due in part to the merger that created the firm.

In March, Online Partners Inc., the parent company of Gay.com, and PlanetOut Corporation merged, creating a powerful firm that reaches more than 4.3 million consumers each month. Its main portals, Gay.com and PlanetOut.com, boast more than 2.4 million registered members.

The company has key distribution partnerships with AOL, Netscape, ICQ, Yahoo, RealNetworks, CompuServe, MSN and other major Web companies.

PlanetOut Partners expects to close the rest of its current funding round by July, the announcement said. ▼



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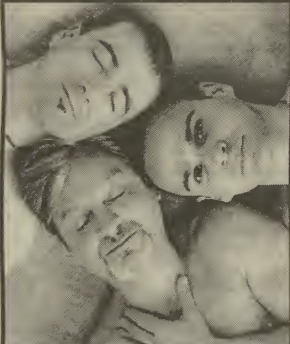
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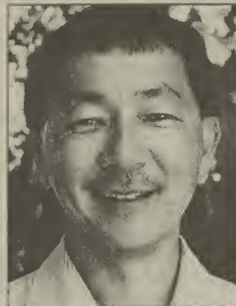
Open house for HIV
spirituality group meets Sun.

by Katie Szymanski

Feeling a void? For those who are yearning to connect with people on a level other than disco, Inner Circle, a new non-profit dedicated to spirituality and people affected by HIV, invites you to its first open house on Sunday, May 20, from 2-5 p.m.

The open house will be held at the home of Dr. Jason Tokumoto, an HIV/AIDS physician and founder of Inner Circle, which began about a year ago but has just recently taken flight.

"In my experience the spiritual part of a person has not been considered when it comes to HIV, and I have found it to be a real powerful instrument in the healing process," said Tokumoto. "This group is not focused on one orga-



Dr. Jason Tokumoto

nized religion, but rather allows everyone to bring their spirituality to the table. In this day and age when everyone is trying to seek something beyond the daily rou-

tine, there is a definite need for such an organization."

Although there is no set program for Inner Circle, Tokumoto said that in the past he has sponsored activities like spiritual retreats for interested participants.

"We are mostly trying to provide a forum and safe environment for individuals affected by HIV to have a place to share and relate to each other their spirituality," he said.

The Inner Circle open house is free and open to the public and is located at 4143 20th Street in San Francisco. Afterwards, participants may join the group in the walk to the AIDS Candlelight Vigil at Castro and Market streets. For more information on Inner Circle or Sunday's open house, call (415) 395-8338, or e-mail hivinnercircle@hotmail.com. ▼

PEP study finds people stick to treatment

by David Fraser

People exposed to HIV through sex or IV drug use will seek preventative PEP treatment within three days if given the opportunity, a new study from the University of California, San Francisco finds.

They'll also stick with the medication regimen despite side effects, a crucial factor in treating HIV disease.

"Our study demonstrates that you can get people to come in after they have been exposed to HIV through sexual contact or injection drug use," said lead author Dr. James Kahn, a UCSF associate professor of medicine. "In fact, those with the highest risk of HIV infection will show up."

The study was conducted by

the UCSF Positive Health Program at San Francisco General Hospital's Tom Waddell Clinic and the STD Clinic of the San Francisco Department of Public Health.

It focused on 401 people seeking PEP – or post-exposure prophylaxis – which should be undertaken within 72 hours of potential exposure. The UCSF program provided a four-week course of antiretroviral medications, and one-on-one risk reduction and medication adherence counseling.

With 78 percent of participants completing the study, none was HIV-infected six months later. Kahn warned about reading too much into the low seroconversion rate.

The study, published in the March 1 issue of the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, also said its findings do not mean that PEP works.

Kahn's study, PEP 1, was con-

ducted in San Francisco in 1997-1999. A second study, PEP 2, is currently under way to determine whether standard two-visit counseling is as effective as enhanced five-visit counseling for reducing risk behavior.

Dr. Michelle Roland, the co-principal investigator, encourages participation by people over 14 years old who can commit to a full year of follow-up in San Francisco. PEP 2 will provide free HIV testing, counseling, and medications for the 28-day treatment.

The new study especially welcomes sexual or IV drug use partners.

Possible exposure must have occurred within the previous 72 hours of joining the study, and there are other requirements for participation. For more information, call (415) 514-4737. ▼

All-star guest list at Milk Club dinner

by Katie Szymanski

Local activist and international gay legend Harry Hay, as well as philanthropist and former ambassador James Hormel are among the distinguished guests at the Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club awards dinner this Tuesday, May 22, at the Ramada Hotel at 8th & Market in

San Francisco.

Everyone is invited to celebrate the success of the Milk Club's efforts over the past year, including the building of coalitions between queer and neighborhood groups, and the recent election of the most independent and progressive Board of Supervisors since Harvey Milk was elected in 1977.

Hay will receive the "Lifetime Achievement Award" at the dinner

in recognition of his many diverse achievements. In 1951, Hay founded the first gay civil rights organization the Mattachine Society, which quickly organized and won the Dale Jennings trial, a case attacking illegal police blackmail practices against gays during the McCarthy era. Throughout the years, Hay was responsible for forming and leading many other gay efforts, like the

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Haines ready for court

Gay man set to start work as judge

by Cynthia Laird

When Charles "Chuck" Haines was on vacation last month visiting the Grand Canyon, he received a call on his cell phone from Governor Gray Davis's office informing him that he was being tapped for a judicial vacancy on the San Francisco Superior Court. For the openly gay Haines, who spent the last 20 years working for the San Francisco District Attorney's office, it was a career goal realized. This Monday, May 21, Haines is expected to report for duty as the city's newest judge in the court's civil division.

"I never thought of myself as going into law enforcement," Haines told the *Bay Area Reporter* in an interview Monday, May 14. "I had my sights set on working with exceptional children."

But the Watergate scandal of the 1970s changed all of that, and Haines decided to drop his study in education to attend law school. While attending Tulane University School of Law, Haines took a part-time job with the local district attorney, who just happened to be Harry Connick Sr., father of the well-known performer Harry Connick Jr. In fact, the senior Connick is still the district attorney in New Orleans.

Haines said his judicial philosophy is simple: "As a member of the judiciary, my priority is to treat everyone fairly and respectfully. I think it's important for a



Charles Haines

judge to be open-minded and fair." And, of course, to follow the law, he added.

During his years working as a prosecutor, Haines specialized in prosecuting hate crimes, and for many years either ran the hate crimes unit or supervised it. One of his big court cases involved a group of men who came to the city from Modesto over three separate weekends and beat people up. He won convictions and the men are now serving time in state prison. Another important case took place when Haines appeared before the California Supreme Court to argue set standards of proof to use in hate crimes.

Haines touched on the issue of

homophobia in the criminal justice system, noting that homophobia is present "throughout society."

"I'm sure anyone who reads the newspaper knows of examples," he said, adding that it's how the community deals with it that forces change, primarily through education and working to end discrimination.

Haines, citing his imminent move to the bench, declined to discuss his views on medical marijuana - including Monday's Supreme Court ruling - or the death penalty. "I don't think it's appropriate as a judge to make comments, because I have an obligation to follow the law," Haines explained.

In his spare time, Haines said he enjoys working out at the YMCA, reading, and other hobbies. Until last week, he served on the board of Coming Home, which helped raise money for the first AIDS hospice in the city years ago. "What an era to have to live through," Haines said, referring to the nearly 20 years of the AIDS epidemic. He added that Coming Home maintains an endowment for the hospice and recently completed a major renovation of the facility that opened in 1987.

Haines said he is looking forward to his new job. "This is a new career and public service is a decent calling. I think this is the ultimate in public service, to settle disputes [in court] so we don't have to settle them in the streets." ▼

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Reefer madness

Monday's ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court against medical marijuana was, to put it mildly, a major bummer. While the immediate effect may be that a handful of buyers' clubs will be forced to close their doors, the lasting impact will be on the many people who use medical marijuana to alleviate the pain and suffering caused by powerful chemotherapy, AIDS wasting, or side effects of various medical regimens; essentially, they will be forced to become criminals because their own government refuses to even hold open the possibility that marijuana has medical benefits.

Whether patients will be prosecuted by the feds is an open question — it seems unlikely that prosecutors will wage what would certainly be a public relations disaster by charging and trying sick, frail patients whose only "crime" is to smoke a little herb so that they can keep their food down — it nonetheless points to the government's heavy-handedness and its absolute refusal to accept the growing reality that medical marijuana can be beneficial. We've been covering the medical marijuana issue for years, and have heard countless anecdotal stories from people who have been helped by this natural medicine. Some scientific studies have also been done or are being undertaken, though the government's reluctance to commit to further studies reveals its deep-seated and misguided belief that marijuana remains on the front-line in the failed "war on drugs." Legalizing medical marijuana, after all, would point to its relative harmlessness and would undercut decades of propaganda by the government that the herb is addictive or will lead to people using other drugs, such as cocaine and heroin.

The executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government are convinced that marijuana remains a dangerous, "gateway" drug. It seems that the scenes from *Reefer Madness* are taken at face value by politicians and judges, when clearly more study is needed. Officials have got to stop believing some hysterical 1936 movie whose aim was to scare parents and young people alike with a campy,

over-the-top depiction of people going "crazy" over the reefer. It's just not like that.

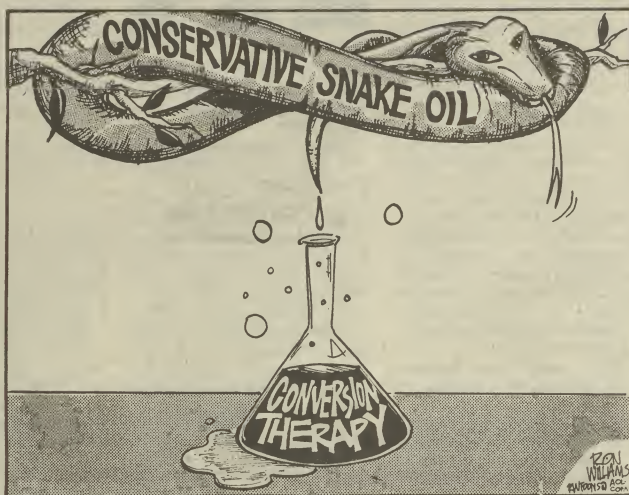
The court's narrow ruling seems to go after distributors of medical marijuana — buyers' clubs, for instance — rather than users. But there's a problem: It is illogical that the court would tell sick people that it's okay to smoke medical marijuana, yet deny them a way to obtain the medicine.

In its ruling, the Supreme Court relied on the woefully outdated Controlled Substances Act, which has marijuana classified as a Schedule I drug. Given the high court's ruling, it is time for Congress to move ahead with a bill sponsored by Representative Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) that would reclassify marijuana as a Schedule II drug, thus easing restrictions

on research and medical use, as well as lowering penalties for violations of the law. Given the current political climate, however, Frank's bill faces a tough (and probably unwinnable) battle.

Research has already shown that marijuana's active ingredient, THC, kills pain to the central nervous system in much the same way that opiates do, without the nausea and other unwanted side effects. More studies are clearly needed to determine marijuana's effectiveness for AIDS patients and others. Such a study has gotten under way in San Mateo County, and Monday's ruling will not stop it. Science — not politics — needs to prevail when it comes to helping sick and dying patients. Medical marijuana has a place in treatment for some, and the Supreme Court's ruling doesn't change that. ▼

Editorial



Trouble in River City

by Boyce Hinman

Yes, there's trouble in River City, as Sacramento is often called. The trouble is the energy crisis, and it is like the proverbial black hole in space which has such powerful gravitational force that it drags in and destroys everything near it.

The energy crisis poses the serious threat of dragging down and destroying most, if not all, of the important civil rights and health legislation being considered by the Legislature this year.

The civil rights bills have to do with things like domestic partner benefits, a ban on discrimination against transgendered people, greater protection against spousal abuse, and racial profiling. The health issues have to do with things like protecting those who have a legitimate need for medicinal marijuana, MediCal care for poor children, and more effective health care for poor people with multiple health care problems such as the combined problems of alcohol and drug abuse and emotional illness. There also is a bill before the Legislature to decriminalize the possession of a hypodermic needle and syringe and to require pharmacists to instruct purchasers on the safe disposal of the needles. This bill could help slow the spread of HIV among intravenous drug users.

The energy crisis is putting important legislation at risk in two ways. The first way is financial and the second is political.

The financial risk is that the state may not have the money to pay for many important programs. Here's why. The state now purchases much of the electric energy used in California. It's doing so because the private utilities don't have the money to pay for it. Currently the state is spending about \$2 billion a month for the electricity it purchases. However, some predict the state may soon be spending as much as \$5 billion per

month for electricity. This would leave little to fund important civil rights initiatives and new health programs.

Governor Gray Davis has said people shouldn't worry, the state will sell bonds and use the proceeds of the sale to replace the money currently being spent on electricity. However, it is far from clear that enough bonds can be sold to replace all the money now being spent on electricity. So, the government's budget surplus is being rapidly drained.

We have already seen the effects of this money drain. About 10 percent of the bills that Lambda Letters supports have been dropped this year by their authors. In most of these cases, legislators say the bills had to be dropped because the money to pay for them just isn't there.

However, there is an even more fundamental issue that is affecting which bills the legislators are pushing and which they are dropping. That issue is what things are most important to the legislators themselves. For example, legislators will continue to pay their own salaries. They will also continue to have the state pay for the mass mailings they send to the voters in their districts. After all, those mailings help them get re-elected.

There is also a political risk affecting the legislation and programs that we care about. Californians likely face severely higher utility bills in the near future. There will probably be frequent blackouts during the summer. Both of these factors could have a serious negative impact on California's economy causing large scale job layoffs.

Will this get people mad? Of course it will. And it is highly likely that people will blame the party in power. This greatly increases the chance that the Republicans will take over the governor's office and the state Legislature after the next election. While I

am highly annoyed at the Democrats for their failure to do the right thing in the areas of civil rights and health care, it is clear to me that things would be even worse in a Republican administration.

At the very least legislators will be reluctant next year to pass any of our civil rights bills that they consider controversial. We have an example of that from last year's legislative session, when AB2142 died in the Senate Judiciary Committee after its chair, then-Senator Adam Schiff, refused to vote for it. The bill, co-sponsored by Lambda Letters, would have banned employment and housing discrimination against transgendered people.

So what can we do about it? We all need to fight like hell to get as much important legislation passed this year as possible. Our community needs you to get involved now. Let legislators know that you demand they vote for absolutely essential civil rights legislation. Make enough noise that they come to believe that passing those bills is as important as approving their own paychecks.

How do you know what legislation to support? Find out by getting involved with one of the organizations which are lobbying on behalf of our community. Two of the main organizations are Lambda Letters and the California Alliance for Pride and Equality.

If you have Internet access, you can contact Lambda Letters at: LambdaLP@aol.com, or visit Lambda Letters' Web site at www.lambdaletters.org. Those without Web access can contact Lambda Letters at (916) 965-6851. To contact CAPE, send a message to: eric.astacaan@home.com or call (916) 929-6331. ▼

Boyce Hinman is the administrator of the Lambda Letters Project.

LETTERS

The 'q' controversy

Well, looks like we have ourselves another controversy (yawn). It's an old controversy resurrected, really. You see, I've been "out" as a gay man for longer than I was "in." When I came out the older generation referred to themselves as "homosexuals." They felt that there was a kind of liberation in using the clinical term, and that it was superior to whatever came before it or, to not referring to "it" at all ("the sin which dares not speak its name").

Oh how they howled when we started calling ourselves gay. But to us it was an action word. Non-clinical, political, emotional, new, and us defining ourselves for a change. And so it went, the preceding generation was pretty anti-political and very, very anti-coming out. Often preferring to refer to their lifetime companions as roommates rather than lovers or partners. So in time our louder, brasher, more political approach eventually won the day as there were more of us and we were more vocal. The homosexuals died out or went silent.

It's no different really from the struggles of other groups. Colored, Negro, black, African American is a historic progression of self and a cultural exploration. Each term was fought for, people died for them, and each in turn eventually became outdated.

My generation has had a hard time of it. We fought the world, ourselves, each other, and a host of plagues. One should not expect that our final passing will be quiet or gentle. And yet, we have no more right to mandate how our successors will view and refer to themselves than did our predecessors. Our time is all but past. We are leaving a terrific legacy. I for one don't want to spoil it by eating our own young.

It's never been about what people call each other. It's the moral force of the intent that was always primary. In the final analysis I don't believe that whether you call me gay, queer, or Greta would make so much difference as whether you bothered to get to know me before doing so.

There is room in my life for people to define themselves. Truth is, I look forward to the day – indeed hope it will come – when we don't need a special word to describe us. Before I was gay, or Democrat, or Buddhist, or anything else, I was Kent.

Kent Olson
Berkeley, California

Word doesn't hurt, way it's used does

Regarding the letter from Will Snyder in the May 3 issue in which he says, "Many of us detest the q-word because, according to Webster's, it means strange or odd. We don't think of ourselves as strange or odd because of our sexual orientation." What kind of denial are you in? We are most definitely strange and odd in this society because of our sexual orientation. We are strange, odd, different, unusual, singular, distinctive, distinguishing, unique, and atypical. We are all the things that the very meaning of the word queer connotes and denotes and thank god/goddess for it. Mr. Snyder can have his assimilationist view. I'll keep on trying to be as queer as possible. God forbid anyone should mistake me for a straight, *Survivor*-watching, Republican-voting, cell phone-using, overpopulating, portfolio-building, middle-class white man. Gross! I'm here, I'm queer (as well as gay, homosexual, bent, and bugger), and people can get over it.

We all need to remember that it isn't just the word that carries the hurt. It's the way it's used. I've heard people call other people "darling" in such a way that it made the person want to punch them in the nose. Maybe the people who spent the thousands of dollars on the full page ad whining about the use of the word "queer" might next time donate the money to feeding some of their "homosexual" or "gay" homeless brothers and sisters. We would all do better to lighten up and take ourselves a little less seriously. There are real problems out there, folks. People are starving and dying. You want to go after somebody, go after people who use such words with malicious intent, not the people who are trying to disempower them by taking back their linguistic ammunition.

Krandall Kraus
San Francisco

Let the mudslinging begin?

The charge that Neil Eisenberg was somehow implicated in the police riots of 1989 is a phony charge (*Mailstrom*, May 10). I am still bitterly angered by the police tactics during the Castro Sweep. Reagan's National Guard during the anti-war demos I expected, but I was appalled by that style of treatment from an Agnos-administered Police Department. I was there, I will never forget.

However, scapegoating particular members of the police squad is not the right reaction. Dragging it out again, in order to mislead us to a conclusion that Neil Eisenberg condones police brutality, is absurd. He doesn't condone police brutality; he spent the first two years of his legal career in Madison, Wisconsin, vigorously fighting it as part of his protest against the Vietnam War.

Eisenberg's job was to defend Cairns, and the evidence indicated Cairns was unjustifiably accused of

very serious charges that would have destroyed his career. If [letter writer Mike] Barnette has new evidence he should bring it forward.

Neil Eisenberg did not "obfuscate the truth and persuade(d) the commission that I and the rest of the many witnesses and victims were mistaken," he merely showed a film that proved that Cairns was not on the other end of the baton that struck one of the victims. He also called witnesses who viewed the incidents from a balcony above Castro Street who positively stated that Cairns did not strike the other victim. Withholding either the film or the witnesses would have exposed Eisenberg to disbarment for failure to provide an adequate defense.

I am personally saddened when someone who has donated so much pro bono personal time working for the public good is demonized. From his early and ongoing work for tenants (Neil saved a 76-year-old Holocaust survivor from eviction just last week at the rent board), securing and protecting the rights of minority contractors, to saving our environment – not just public power, Neil has earned my personal respect the hard way.

In a way I'm glad that we got to this Joe McCarthy-style finger pointing crap early, let's get over it and look at the issues in the city attorney's race, issues that seriously affect the way we are governed. I can assure you that both Neil and I are committed to a race that is free from false and misleading attacks.

Doug Comstock
Campaign Manager, Eisenberg for City Attorney
San Francisco

Well-deserved backlash

As a licensed nurse and a transwoman living with AIDS, I am simply delighted that the FDA has cracked down on the pharmaceuticals and the advertisements of the healthy people depicted in the ads. First of all, I have had a number of patients die of AIDS, and have lost a brother, fiancé, professor, and numerous other friends. Because of the sometimes debilitating side effects, severe cramps and nausea, dizziness, diarrhea, etc., I know that they did not feel like riding bicycles, climbing to the top of a mountain, or any of the other things that are reflected in the ads.

When the AIDS Office report showed that transgenders of color (Native Americans, Latino/Latina, Asian and Pacific Islanders, and in particular, African Americans) had the highest rate of infection, I wrote to *Poz* magazine and asked them to put a transgender on the cover, and to show the "true" and "ever-changing" face of AIDS. That was in 1999, the same year that I received the KQED/DuPont Pharmaceuticals LGBT "AIDS Hero Award." *Poz* magazine promised to put me on the cover, and took me through all of the machinations of doing so. A great story by transman Patrick Califia-Rice, great photos by Kent Taylor, makeup artists, etc. It was supposed to be on the June cover, and the editor, Walter Armstrong, had assured me of such. Instead, they ran condoms.

I was then promised the October cover, and they were going to run the story then. I was replaced instead with gelatin capsules, and a story that was a "breakthrough," according to Armstrong. Then Walter told me that after that "breakthrough" issue they were changing direction, and had a new art director, and that they were getting away from putting people on the cover, and that he was "sorry." Lo and behold, the November issue (and subsequent issues) had "people" on the cover – just not transgenders.

I complained to David Rosen, a manager at DuPont, about this obvious snub; not of me, but of my community that was supposed to be represented not just inside, but on the cover. It didn't matter who was on the cover, as long as they were trans. It would also show that transgenders were directly affected, and that our lives mattered, and show that we take the medicines, ride bikes, etc.

Move to 2001 and there is a backlash against *Poz* magazine and the pharmaceutical companies and the way people with HIV/AIDS are depicted. It is one that is well deserved. They haven't changed a thing, and business goes on as usual. As the *Poz* Expo goes the way of the dinosaur, and the FDA has begun cracking down on the pharmaceutical companies' ads and the way they depict the "community" that is infected, maybe they will finally understand, as all of you should, that transpeople are an intrinsic part of the word "community" and all of you should be outraged by any advertisement, statement, or depiction of "community" that doesn't reflect that. I recently spotted a *Poz* cover that had a quarter-size photo of a transwoman on the cover. How nice. Too little, too late.

I do support the efforts of Supervisor Tom Ammi-ano, Jeff Getty, and Hank Wilson, who lobbied the pharmaceutical companies that support magazines such as *Poz* and that put advertisements on local bus shelters. They should not be able to use photos or the word "community" unless it reflects our true face. Kudos to their efforts, and to the FDA.

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One small step for a trans, one giant leap for transkind

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

In a tense vote, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors narrowly approved health benefits for transgendered city employees. By the time you read this, it will either have been signed by Mayor Brown, or will be on the road to taking effect without his signature. This means that those who serve the city and identify as transgendered will not be turned away from medical care.

It's not as basic as it has been painted in the media. While I suspect some will do so, this is not as simple as allowing people to get their genitals converted on San Francisco's dime.

For some, it means being able to get even the most basic health treatment — treatment that would otherwise be disallowed because the insurer considered it to be transgender-related. Even life-saving treatments — if they can somehow be linked to the person in question being transgendered — are routinely denied by many insurers. So much so that transgendered people have often learned to talk around the issue, and care providers serving transgendered folks have learned to word their diagnoses to mask cases that may involve transgendered health issues.

It's an important victory, but it also seems rather small. At heart, this affects 16 known transgendered city employees, many of whom will not be taking advantage of these benefits during this crucial one-year trial. Each of these 16 will be able to use a maximum of \$50,000 of care, with some limitations of how much can be used for transgender-specific surgeries such as mastectomy and vaginoplasty.

It will cost every city employee and retiree an extra \$1.70 a month on their bill, but even that seems to be minor in comparison to the \$12.00 spent on substance abuse health coverage.

Still, it is an important victory for reasons that go far beyond the health coverage for 16 or so city employees. For one, it's important to look at the way the media covered this win.

There were plenty of cameras present for the April 30 vote at City Hall. By my count, there were six television cameras inside the

board chambers, with more outside. I simply couldn't get a count of all the still cameras.

I took the liberty that night of videotaping the various news coverage on local television, and was struck by two things. I first noted all the "man on the street" interviews, asking the average resident what they thought of this victory. Of the pieces I viewed, two-thirds of the interviewees replied that it was a good thing to have this coverage.

Of those who replied negatively, one was not a local resident, so could be discounted as a "typical San Franciscan."

More important than these interviews was hearing one of the reporters refer to "our transgendered community." This struck me, as I am used to hearing those who identify as transgendered make that statement, but cannot think of any time where a non-transgendered person has so clearly conveyed that we really are out there.

That is important. It is saying that we exist, and that we are a part of the whole.

It is as if, overnight, we have seen a lot of the "invisibility" surrounding transgenderism simply vanish. Not only that, but it went from being treated as an "odd news" tale to wrap up the nightly coverage — at best — to being a serious lead story. It has put us on the map.

Speaking of invisibility, so much of the coverage focused not on male-to-female transsexuals, which is what one typically sees, but on female-to-male transsexuals. At the least, every story pointed out the cost differences between the two, while others included interviews with some prominent local female-to-males. It was nice to see more than just the women being shown.

This victory shows those of us who are transgendered that we can have a success from time to time. There have been some setbacks in transgendered rights struggles lately, most notably with the Christie Lee Littleton case in Texas, which invalidated her marriage and her gender in a court of law. Our victory, while not erasing the sting of cases like Littleton's,



shows us that our struggles are not in vain. This health benefits plan was something that was viewed by some as a "pie in the sky" proposition. This win brings the rest of that pie a lot closer.

I'm not sure what the next piece of pie might be, but I suspect that we can see other businesses and locales move to include similar benefits. I could see the increased visibility of transgender issues also affecting other transgender rights struggles — for better or worse.

Part of losing the invisibility I mentioned is losing a certain amount of safety. We've been largely able to fly under the radar of the religious right and other conservatives, but that is quickly eroding. The Reverend Lou Sheldon has already used his Traditional Values Coalition to denounce this health benefits package, stating that it will "only encourage sexually confused individuals to believe they are 'normal,' when in fact, they are suffering from a personality disorder."

Sheldon, while woefully misinformed as to the nature of transgenderism, may have a point. This victory does encourage transgendered people. Perhaps it doesn't encourage us to believe ourselves as "normal" — a word that I've never really applied to myself — but it does encourage us to see ourselves as worthy of the same rights as others. I'll bet that would concern the reverend.

For 16 people, their health benefits were secured in the San Francisco. For the rest of us, we have seen another big step toward a world of acceptance, where "the transgendered community" becomes "our transgendered community," and where we are all equal.

And that is the real victory. ▼

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Shelley makes it official

by Wayne Friday

San Francisco Assemblyman **Kevin Shelley** joined a somewhat crowded race to become California's next secretary of state before a hometown crowd last Friday, May 11 that included his mother, **Thelma**, his expectant wife, **Dominique**, Mayor **Willie Brown**, Senator **Dianne Feinstein**, Assemblywoman **Carole Migden**, and 500 friends and supporters at Delancy Street on the Embarcadero.

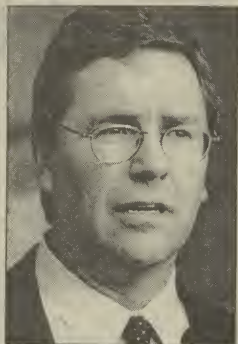
Shelley, serving his final year in his 12th District Assembly seat, is an attorney, a former San Francisco supervisor, a native San Franciscan, and the son of former Mayor **John Shelley**. First elected to the Assembly in 1996, Shelley represents parts of San Francisco and San Mateo counties, including the northern end of Daly City; he serves as the Assembly majority leader.

Shelley told supporters that his long legislative history as a "reformer" makes him particularly qualified for the state job, one that he says needs to focus more on overhauling the state's election process, and he promised to concentrate on voter outreach and participation. He cited declining voting numbers in the state — only 50 percent of California's registered voters actually voted last November — and said he sees this as a serious problem for the state. In an effort to increase the number of voters, Shelley would expand polling hours, ensure disability access at polls and enlarge the print of voter pamphlets. Shelley pledged that, if elected, he would eliminate punch-card voting that is currently used in half the state's counties and he would work to engage communities in voter education programs before elections are held.

The candidate also said that while security reasons would prevent the immediate implementation of online voting, he believes the possibility of voting that way should be explored. Shelley also told supporters that he thinks easier online accessibility to voter or business registration is especially important and while he said that he feels the current secretary of state has made some inroads into providing such information electronically, he would do so in a more "aggressive" manner. Shelley also said that the state archives, which include public records, maps, and other documents should be put online.

Shelley, who quickly rose through the Assembly ranks to become majority leader, authored one of the strongest local "sunshine" laws in the nation while a state legislator, has fought for and won significant consumer protections such as the "lemon" law to protect car buyers, and helped craft the first major nursing home reform law passed in this state in a generation. He has also led the fight in the Assembly to license handguns.

The secretary of state is the only statewide elected constitutional office currently held by a Republican, **Bill Jones**, who is now a candidate for the GOP gubernatorial nomination in 2002. Shelley will face at least three other Democrats for his party's nomination in the March 2002



Assemblyman Kevin Shelley

primary: **Michela Alioto**, the 1998 Democratic nominee for the office, who lost to Jones by only 90,000 votes; former Secretary of State **March Fong Eu**; and Southern California Assemblyman **Tony Cardenas**, the Democratic Assembly Caucus chairman.

Shelley enters the race for the state post with the support Democratic Party heavyweights including U.S. Senators **Feinstein** and **Barbara Boxer**, Lieutenant Governor **Cruz Bustamante**, state Treasurer **Phil Angelides**, Congressmembers **Henry Waxman** and **Robert Matsui**, state Senators **John Burton** and **Sheila Kuehl**, and Migden, his Assembly colleague. Shelley campaign officials say the candidate has raised over \$800,000 and expects to easily raise the \$2 million they feel will be necessary to win the March 2002 primary. To date, only one relatively unknown Republican candidate has announced for the secretary of state post. Shelley's campaign can be reached at (415) 255-8587; fax: (415) 255-8648; or e-mail kshelley@shelley2002.com.

Politics and people

Friends and supporters of San Francisco Assemblywoman **Carole Migden** will host a cocktail party/fundraiser for the popular chair of the powerful Assembly Appropriations Committee on Thursday, May 31, 5:30-7 p.m., at Citizen Cake, 399 Grove Street, to celebrate Migden's candidacy for the California Board of Equalization. If elected next year, Migden, a Democrat, would become the first woman ever elected to the BOE and the first member of the gay/lesbian community to be elected to a state constitutional office in California (\$100 donation; 415-928-2992 for info).

City attorney race update: As of press time, names still very much in the mix for the November race for city attorney race include announced candidates **Neil Eisenberg** and **Steve Williams**, police commissioner **Dennis Herrera**, former Supervisor **Annemarie Conroy**, and former deputy City Attorney **Jim Lazarus**.

Marin has an election this Tuesday, May 22, on recalling District Attorney **Paula Kamena**. The readers I hear from in Marin strongly recommend a "no" vote on this one.

Last week this column reported the rumors that Florida Governor **Jeb Bush** was re-thinking his candidacy for re-election next year because of reported "family

difficulties." On Monday Bush held a press conference to denounce rumors that he has been having an extramarital affair with a former *Playboy* bunny who now holds a Florida state job at a reported \$114,000 annual salary.

Meanwhile, the same U.S. Supreme Court that appointed **George W. Bush** to his White House job on Monday issued an 8-0 decision (one justice abstained) against the medical use of marijuana.

Hey, I caught **Andrew Sullivan**, the gay conservative political commentator, speaking on C-SPAN the other night to a crowd at Stanford University-sponsored by "Queer Awareness Day 2001." He gave a talk on "The Politics of Homosexuality," during which he referred to San Francisco as a "fascist liberal state" and then called those AIDS activists who are "demonizing" the drug companies for those glamorous HIV drug ads for their "nanny-state, left, liberal orthodoxy." Sullivan gave an interesting speech, but has (in my opinion, anyway) lousy political views, and refers to himself as a "tortured Catholic boy." Like his views or not, he gives a pretty smooth spiel for what I'm told is \$10,000 a pop. Incidentally, in the past Sullivan and I have exchanged some pretty heated and insulting e-mail messages, but the guy is a pretty amusing public speaker.

Dubya's nominee to head the powerful Securities and Exchange Commission, attorney **Harvey Pitt**, reportedly did some legal work in 1999 for an online distributor of "teen sex" videos and other adult entertainment videos. How did this get past Bush's background investigators? Religious conservatives are already going crazy, with **Gary Bauer** and the Reverend **Lou Sheldon** of the Traditional Values Coalition leading the charge.

Incidentally, San Francisco friends of L.A. mayoral runoff candidate **Antonio Villaraigosa**, the clear favorite of gay/lesbian activists in that race, reportedly raised over \$100,000 for his candidacy in a local party last week.

San Francisco-based ace campaign consultant **Ace Smith**, who was chief campaign manager for former L.A. mayoral candidate **Steve Soboroff's** campaign (he came in third) has now joined the Villaraigosa campaign where he'll handle debate prep and opposition research for the former Assembly speaker.

Former Supervisor **Annemarie Conroy** and BART Director **James Fang** will speak to the regular meeting of the S.F. chapter of the Long Cabin Republicans at the Urban Life Center, 1101 O'Farrell on Thursday, May 24, 6-8 p.m. Conroy is expected to become a candidate for city attorney and Fang is rumored to be interested in the GOP nomination for the 12th Assembly District next year.

Assemblywoman Migden's office informs us that the Assembly Elections, Reapportionment, and Constitutional Amendments Committee will hold a public hearing tomorrow, Friday, May 18 at 11 a.m. in the State Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, first floor auditorium, for the purpose of gathering public input into the process of drawing new lines for California's Assembly, Senate, Congressional and Board of Equalization districts; testimony will be taken at the hearing regarding new district lines for all four political jurisdictions.

And how was your week? ▼



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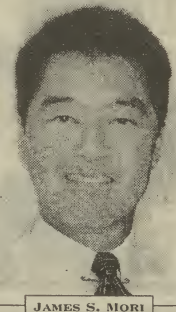
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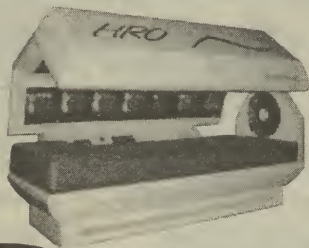
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Straight talk about going straight

by Dale Carpenter

If you've been thinking how nifty it would be to convert to heterosexuality, there's good news and bad news. The "good" news is a recent study concluded that, for a very small number of gays, it's possible. The "bad" news is don't bet on it. Whether or not you were born gay, you will almost certainly die gay. So you'd better learn to like it.

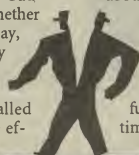
Proponents of so-called reparative therapy – the effort to make homosexuals into heterosexuals through a variety of techniques, including counseling and religious instruction – have treated the study as a vindication of their efforts. Gay political groups have reacted with horror, attacking the lead researcher himself as biased. Some news outlets described the study as "explosive."

However, it turns out the furor is much ado about very little. The study makes an exceedingly modest conclusion based on questionable methodology.

First, it's important to know what the study *did not* conclude. It did not conclude that conversion is possible for most – much less for all – gay people, even if they want to change. It did not conclude that homosexual orientation is a matter of choice, like whether to have the chicken or the beef in a restaurant. It certainly did not validate a particular method of conversion.

In fact, Robert Spitzer, the pro-

fessor of psychiatry at Columbia University who led the study, does not endorse conversion efforts at all. Indeed, he was one of a group of pioneering psychiatrists who successfully lobbied to have homosexuality removed from the official list of mental disorders in 1973. If there's nothing disordered or sick about a trait, why change it?



OutRight

What the Spitzer study *did* conclude is that (1) some (2) "highly motivated" (3) gay people can achieve (4) "good heterosexual functioning" (5) for a limited time (6) after more than a decade of effort. Each aspect of this rather limited conclusion deserves closer scrutiny.

Spitzer's study, which has not been published and has not been professionally reviewed for validity or methodology, is based on telephone interviews conducted with 200 people who claimed to have changed from homosexual to heterosexual attraction for a period of at least five years. Each interview lasted approximately 45 minutes, during which the subjects answered 60 questions about their sexual attractions and behavior in the period before and after their effort to change.

That's it. There were no face-to-face interviews; no tests for physiological reactions to various sexual stimuli; no objective verification of the respondents' answers; no long-term study; and no control group.

Of the 200 self-professed converts to heterosexuality, Spitzer concluded that only 66 percent of

the men and 44 percent of the women had actually accomplished their goal.

Moreover, this was a very select group of people. It was not 200 gay people taken off the street at random and put through some conversion exercises to see what the outcome might be. Two-thirds of the participants were referred to Spitzer by "ex-gay" ministries that teach homosexuality is sinful or by a notoriously anti-gay outfit called the National Association for Research and Therapy of Homosexuality. These groups have a vested interest in showing their effectiveness, so they're likely to submit for review only their strongest candidates.

Also, there's a good chance many of the participants had been indoctrinated with powerful and repeated doses of anti-gay ideology and religion. Such people are likely to be "highly motivated" (to borrow Spitzer's description of them) to report they've successfully changed even when they haven't.

We can't even be sure they were ever really "gay" at all. It could be that many of them were basically straight but had an occasional, experimental gay experience in their teens or 20s causing them so much guilt they decided to "change" so it would never happen again.

But since we know so little about the participants, having been acquainted with them over a telephone line for less than an hour each, it's hard to say anything about them with confidence.

The male participants claimed to have been trying to change for 14 years; the women, for 12 years. That's about one-fifth of the adult years of the average person's life span.

And what was the return on this huge investment of time and energy? For the one-year period before the interviews, they achieved "good heterosexual functioning," defined by the researchers to mean having an emotionally satisfying relationship with a person of the opposite sex, having satisfactory sex with that person at least once a month, and rarely or never thinking of gay sex while doing it. Only 11 percent of the men and 37 percent of the women interviewed reported a complete absence of homosexual attraction. Even these figures are almost certainly high, since they are entirely self-reported.

What this study really proves is that, after a heroic and protracted effort, it is possible for a person suffering from an extraordinary level of internalized homophobia to refrain from having gay sex for a limited period of time. It shows that behavior can be modified; it does not show that a person's basic sexual orientation can be altered.

We didn't need a study to reach that conclusion. The long and tragic history of efforts to "repair" gay people – from electric shock to hormone injections to hectoring lectures about damnation – have amply demonstrated that it's possible to ruin gay people's lives. Unfortunately, this limited and flawed study will only fuel that destructive fire. ▼

Dale Carpenter can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

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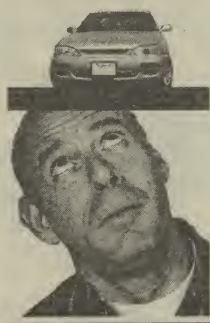
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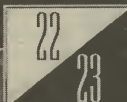
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COMMUNITY NEWS

Catch the red-eye

by Jane Warner

Walgreens, 498 Castro, May 11, 10:35 p.m.: The night manager of Walgreens observed a woman stuffing bottles of Visine into her jacket. The woman exited the store and the manager confronted her about the stolen goods. The woman suddenly took a revolver from her pocket, cocked back the hammer, and told the manager, "I don't have shit from your mother fucking store." The manager and another employee crossed the street and followed the armed woman into the underground Muni as the manager dialed 911 on his cell phone. Responding officers met the manager inside of Muni, who told them the suspect jumped the rails

and boarded the Taraval outbound train. Officers radioed the information and as the coach approached Forest Hill, it was met by numerous awaiting police officers. The suspect tried to run from the train but was quickly apprehended without further incident.



Food fight

Dolores and Church, May 11, 4:20 p.m.: A magazine conducting a photo shoot in Dolores Park used barricades to reserve a parking space on Church Street. About an hour into the shoot, a red Ford pickup truck drove up and the driver got out and threw the barricades on the sidewalk. A security guard, hired by the magazine, approached the man and told him the parking spot was reserved. The man became enraged, screaming, "All I want to do is eat my burrito."

He then threw the burrito he was eating at the security guard's car. The man jumped back into his truck and told the guard, "I have a rifle in here and I'm going to come back and kill you all." The man drove away and was last seen headed southbound on Church Street.

Shopping spree

Safeway parking lot, 2020 Market Street, May 3, 1:35 a.m.: Several calls came in regarding a woman erratically driving a green Pontiac in Safeway's parking lot. Witnesses told responding police that the woman struck a shopping cart, ran over a concrete island, and sideswiped a parked car. Officers detained the woman who later stated, "Yeah, I was drinking and driving, but I didn't hit anything." The 40-year-old woman was taken to Mission Station and booked for driving under the influence. Her car, which had several fresh dents and scrapes, was taken to City Tow. ▼

Roanoke shooter pleads guilty to murder

by Ed Walsh

Ronald Gay, who told police he was angry over being teased about his last name, pleaded guilty to murder and other charges for killing one person and wounding six others in a Roanoke, Virginia, gay bar last September. He faces a minimum 95-year prison sentence.

One of Gay's victims, Joel Tucker, told the Bay Area Reporter

that he's relieved the case is over and he expects Gay won't adjust well to prison life.

"It's ironic to me that he'll have to go to a prison system that is rampant with gay sex after what he did," said Tucker. "It's kind of like you reap what you sow. He's going to be living in his own hell."

Tucker was shot in the back but he is fully recovered now. His friend, Danny Lee Overstreet, 43, died at the scene. Overstreet once

lived in the Bay Area and often visited here, according to his sister, Darlene Overstreet.

Last Thursday, May 3, Gay was allowed to plead guilty to first-degree murder and six counts of malicious wounding as part of a plea bargain. In exchange, prosecutors dropped eight firearms charges. Hate crime charges were never filed because Virginia law doesn't include sexual orientation in its definition of hate crimes. ▼

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Pot club 'frustrated' by Supremes' ruling

by Liz Highleyman

The future of medical marijuana suddenly grew more cloudy Monday, May 14, as proponents sought to interpret the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous decision disallowing a medical defense for seriously ill patients who use the drug for health reasons.

At a press conference on Monday following the 8-0 Supreme Court decision against clubs that provide medical cannabis, Robert Raich, attorney for the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative said, "We are saddened and disappointed that the Supreme Court ruled against providing medicine to seriously ill and dying patients."

However, OCBC co-founder and director Jeff Jones told the *Bay Area Reporter* that the ruling was "more of a frustration" than a disappointment, and that given past rulings, he had not expected a positive outcome.

The ruling upheld an injunction that enjoined the club from distributing marijuana, overturning an earlier appeals court ruling that held that the OCBC could provide the herb to seriously ill patients with a valid medical necessity defense (see accompanying story).

Jones likened the justices' decision to the 1857 Dred Scott decision, in which the Supreme Court ruled in favor of slavery. Just as that decision helped spark the Civil War, Jones said that Monday's decision "could be the ruling that ignites a civil movement to change the laws regarding medical cannabis."

The OCBC plans to go back to district court in an attempt to find other avenues of litigation that might be more successful. According to Raich, "We have many other issues to present in the district court were not ripe for appellate review last time around. We will be pursuing all of these issues now."

Said Jones, "We believe the truth is behind us, and that mari-



NORML's Dale Gieringer denounced the Supreme Court's ruling.

juana is a therapeutic and beneficial plant. If we have to take this to a jury, we will."

A recent case in Sonoma County suggests that a jury might look favorably on the OCBC's case. On April 18, a Sonoma jury acquitted two men charged with cultivating medicinal cannabis for members of a San Francisco marijuana club. The jury ruled that Ken Hayes and Michael Foley, executive director and dispensary manager, respectively, of Californians Helping Alleviate Medical Problems at the time of their arrest, could be considered primary caregivers for patients in accordance with Proposition 215. The proposition, passed by the state's voters in 1996, allows a patient or primary caregiver to cultivate and possess cannabis for medical purposes, but did not specify how medical marijuana could be distributed.

The Sonoma case, however, involved state law, whereas the OCBC case was prosecuted under federal drug statutes. According to the American Medical Marijuana Association, medical marijuana laws still stand in the several states that have passed them. The AMMA predicted that medical cannabis clubs "will simply switch from distributing medical pot to

helping patients grow their own."

Dale Gieringer of the California chapter of the National Organization for Reform of Marijuana Laws, one of the original authors of Proposition 215, denounced the Supreme Court for upholding "a morally bankrupt and unenforceable policy." It would be a "serious mistake" for the federal government to try to close California's cannabis clubs, which "provide a valuable service to their members and their communities," said Gieringer. "As soon as one club is closed, others will open. The government would be better advised to change its policy, and not waste more law enforcement resources in a misguided and unwinnable prohibitionist campaign to deny medicine to sick people."

According to Jones, a jury is likely to rule in favor of medicinal cannabis "because the jury is us, not a bunch of government bureaucrats who are tied up with 'sending the wrong message' to a kid by allowing his parent who is sick with cancer to have his medicine." Jones's hopes were further bolstered by a CNN.com poll on Monday showing that 78 percent of more than 80,000 respondents agreed that people should be allowed to use marijuana for medical purposes. ▼

Supreme Court snuffs out medical pot

by Bob Roehr

The U.S. Supreme Court threw compassion and the pleas of patients to the wind when it ruled by the letter of the law and against the medical use of marijuana. In its 8-0 unanimous decision issued Monday, May 14, the court found that "for the purposes of the Controlled Substances Act, marijuana has no currently accepted medical use at all."

"Congress has made a determination that marijuana has no medical benefits worthy of an exception," wrote Justice Clarence Thomas in the majority opinion that denied use of a medical necessity defense when prosecuted. He was joined by four other justices who are held to be the more conservative members of the court.

A minority opinion, written by Justice John Paul Stevens and joined by Justices David Souter and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, tried to carve out a narrower ruling. They argued that medical necessity could not be used as a defense for manufacturing and distribution of marijuana but may be so employed by individual patients "for whom there is no alternative means of avoiding starvation

or extraordinary suffering."

Justice Stephen Breyer did not take part in the decision because his brother, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer, handled the case on the trial court level. The case was the *United States v. Oakland Cannabis Buyers Cooperative*.

Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative director Jeff Jones lamented the decision as "heavy-handed and misguided." It will limit their "ability to give direction to patients who are now going to be left to go to the streets to access their medicines in a way that is unsafe and could put them in jeopardy."

Dr. Donald Abrams, a leading researcher in the field of medical use of marijuana at the University of California, San Francisco, criticized both the court and Congress for playing doctor. He chooses to let the doctor and patient decide what is best in each individual situation.

"This is not going to be over until we win," said Dennis Peron, director of Californians for Compassionate Use of Marijuana. Peron led the 1996 ballot fight, Proposition 215, where voters approved medical use of marijuana.

The issue of medical marijuana is likely to be back before the courts on questions concerning individ-

ual constitutional rights and states' rights in the context of a federated system of government that divides responsibilities between the federal and state governments.

Local law enforcement officials were reviewing the ruling. But some had already decided that federal law did not affect state law. "If the feds want to prosecute these people they can," said Mendocino County California District Attorney Norm Vroman. "In California, the law has not changed one iota."

Chuck Thomas, spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project in Washington, D.C., said the court ruling only applies to federal prosecutions. "A state government may still allow its residents to possess, grow, or distribute marijuana." Only about 1 percent of marijuana cases are prosecuted under federal law.

Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts) has introduced legislation that would reclassify marijuana from a Schedule I to a Schedule II controlled substance. That would ease restrictions on research and medical use, as well as reduce penalties for violating the law. And it would allow physicians to prescribe or recommend marijuana as therapy as applicable under state law. ▼

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HIV prevention effort puts sex front & center

by David Fraser

Fuck the "fcuk" sign. If you want some powerful messages, try the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's Assumptions campaign's visual advertising.

Ranging from bus shelter advertisements to a billboard that ran above the Cafe Flore in the Castro earlier this year that de-

picted a naked man having, well, a really good time, the ads have captured the imagination of many by showing nearly all.

They're part of the SFAF's Assumptions campaign for HIV/AIDS prevention and control that targets gay men at high risk for getting or spreading the disease.

A key focus of the campaign is to challenge assumptions that many gay men make about their sexual partners' HIV status.

Unlike the controversial "san francisco's first fcuk" sign (for French Connection U.K.) near Union Square in San Francisco, ads for the Assumptions campaign have drawn attention not from being clever but from appearing explicit.

In this year's part of the Assumptions campaign, called "How Do You Know What You Know?", ads carry sexually charged visuals of naked men with tag lines like:

• "Tops who bareback must be negative. How do you know what you know?"

• "He's a top. Tops can't get it. How do you know what you know?"

• "I don't have it yet. I must be immune. How do you know what you know?"

There are other ads showing couples, with the tag, "He'd tell me if he's negative. He'd tell me if he's positive."

Gritty and explicit

Designers have turned up the visual heat in this, the second phase of the campaign. Last year's ads featured abstract designs, which drew praise but also didn't go far enough for the target audience of men at high sexual risk, according to Brian Byrnes, the foundation's HIV prevention services director.

This year's Assumptions campaign cost \$250,000, all of it from the foundation's unrestricted



SFAF's latest effort to promote safe sex.

funds, Byrnes said. The first initiative last year cost just over \$340,000. No government funding is involved.

Byrnes added that an ad similar to the "Tops" message will run on the billboard above Cafe Flore for Pride month in June. The foundation will also place its posters throughout the Castro Muni station.

"For the new campaign, we developed this look after evaluating last year's campaign," Byrnes told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "From the first phase of the Assumptions campaign, we found that men liked the more abstract design but a significant proportion didn't immediately understand the message was about sex lives and HIV."

Byrnes said the foundation "did about 150 street-based interviews, plus later hour-long interviews. So this year we turned our approach around, wanting to respond to the evaluation."

"Many of the guys told us explicitly in the evaluation that the campaign would succeed better if we used material that was grittier, with more sexually explicit visual language that would better reflect

the sexual culture of the Castro and the target populations. The campaign is aimed at guys who are very active, with unprotected anal intercourse with multiple partners.

"So far we've had lots of e-mails and calls saying that guys noticed the ads more. There's been a lot of support [for the approach]. We will do another evaluation in July when the campaign's over. But guys seem to relate to the images, they see their own activities reflected."

The campaign's visual and textual approach contrasts with that of several pharmaceutical firms which make HIV/AIDS drugs. The HIV drug ads became magnets for controversy recently because they depicted sexually suggestive HIV-positive men while ignoring the physical and other consequences of the disease.

HIV activists, health officials, and politicians challenged the ads' implicit message, eventually prompting the Food and Drug Administration to ban the advertisements as misleading. The FDA told drug companies to make clear the downside of HIV infection.

next page ►

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Sex health fair to tackle taboos

by David Fraser

Not that you need one, of course, but just in case your friend does ...

Orgasm coach Frank Strona will head the list of sexperts sharing all at "Do You Taboo? Exploring Sex Myths and Other Gay Misnomers," a sexual health fair this Tuesday, May 22, from 7:30-9:30 p.m.

The fair, presented by the Gay Life, will be held at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th Street between Collingwood and Diamond. Gay Life is a program of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

"Come celebrate your gayness, and Harvey Milk's birthday, with Gay Life, the notorious Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and community sexperts," said SFAF's Redge Norton, promising that the evening will "pull back the sheets on subjects that rarely get to see the light of day."

The sex-positive forum will

offer the following rotating workshops featuring sexperts from Body Electric, Mr. S Leathers, and Strona:

• "Erotic Energy:" Through stretching, breathing, and touching, men learn how to awaken and sustain full-body erotic energy. Members of Body Electric discuss and demystify the workshops they are so famous for.

• "A Boy and His Toys:" Gone are the days of those hard plastic, battery-operated vibrators. Today's man gets his choice of fleshlike, glow-in-the-dark toys. Think all cock rings are hard or leather? Think again! Mr. S Leathers will host a program of toys and fun for the discriminating male.

• "Ring of Pleasure:" Trouble finding that pleasure spot your friends all talk about? Ever wonder the best way to enjoy butt sex? Coach Strona will take you "down the path to exploring the good, the bad, and the ugly."

Space is limited and registration is suggested. Call (415) 788-LIFE. ▼

Texas gets hate crimes coverage

by Bob Roehr

Texas will include gays and lesbians among those covered by hate crimes laws. Governor Rick Perry signed the measure last Friday, May 11, only three hours after it landed on his desk. That brought the long and contentious struggle to a quick end. It amends a law passed in 1993 and goes into effect on September 1.

The James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act was named after the African American man who was beaten and dragged to his death behind a pickup truck in 1998. Byrd's mother, Stella, who was at the signing ceremony, called it "the best Mother's Day gift that I've ever received. At least I have something good to remember from his death. It's been hard, it's been real hard to live through it."

The measure was strongly opposed by social conservatives, primarily because it extends protection

to homosexuals. Two years ago, then-Governor George W. Bush reportedly worked behind the scenes to make sure the bill remained bottled up in the Legislature so that he would not have to face the question of signing or vetoing it while he was running for president.

Perry, then lieutenant governor, had played a leading role in that process. But this year, as political momentum increasingly swung behind the bill, he lobbied state senators to allow the bill to come to a vote, though he did not come out in favor of it.

Democrats unanimously supported the legislation. Ten Republicans voted for it in the House, padding the 87-60 margin of victory, while five state senators helped to assure passage by 20-10 in that chamber.

Conservative groups such as the Texas Christian Coalition and the Texas Eagle Forum asked their members to call the governor expressing opposition to the bill,

and urge a veto. Thousands of calls and letters flooded Perry's office, nearly 3 to 1 in opposition.

Perry responded to those pleas at the signing ceremony. "What I would ask them to do is not unlike what I did. In the quietness of my own heart, make a decision that I think is in the best interest of this state and for all Texans."

Without questioning Perry's sincerity, observers said that it is also fair to note that the political tide had turned. By signing the bill he brought an end to a highly contentious issue that mobilized core Democratic constituents, while banking on the hope that few social conservatives will see it as an issue come election time next year. "Today the pendulum of justice swings our way," said Dianne Hardy-Garcia, executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. She called it an historic moment.

Winnie Stachelberg, political director of the Human Rights

Campaign, said it was "a very good sign." Any move on hate crimes legislation at the state level "will have a positive effect at the national level."

She also made clear that the two pieces of legislation differ. The national bill does not enhance penalties for hate crimes. Furthermore, she noted that the length of time it took to pass in Texas, and more than a decade in New York, underscores the need to pass federal legislation to cover the majority of states that do not have hate crimes laws, or have laws that do

not include lesbians and gays.

Log Cabin Republicans political director Kevin Ivers expects an enhanced debate in this session of Congress over competing versions of hate crimes legislation sponsored by Senators Ted Kennedy and Orrin Hatch. The more expansive Kennedy version would immediately extend federal jurisdiction in these matters while the Hatch version would extend assistance to local authorities while undertaking a study to see if gay hate crimes are treated differently in different states. ▼

Assumptions

◀ previous page

Asked how the Assumptions and the HIV drug ad campaigns differed, Byrnes cited the responses received during SFAF's evaluations. He added: "For gay-related programs, there are hundreds of studies that showing behavior change among cohorts of individuals with the help of role modeling or skills-building programs.

"We've been doing prevention work for 20 years. We have an epidemic that's significantly smaller than it was 15 years ago, partly as a result" of interventions.

"Regarding the pharmaceutical stuff, it's one of many things that influence people's behavior."

Various approaches

The campaign is part of a set of long-term public education efforts by SFAF. One facet relies on sets of powerful, highly explicit ads targeting diverse audiences, primarily of gay men. Some are placed in sex bars and clubs; others, generally less explicit, run on bus shelters or the sides of buses. The evolution of the ads reflects benchmarks in the AIDS epidemic and shifting approaches over the years to prevention and control.

Said Byrnes, "HIV is a different thing than it was five to seven years ago, and that has had a profound influence on HIV prevention. My approach is to give people information for them to make fully informed decisions [on sexual behavior] with. When we were deciding how to do the second Assumptions campaign, we found that the idea of assumptions was very relevant, that it rang true for many of those interviewed. They find themselves assuming a lot of things including their partners' HIV status.

"This current campaign boils the message down to the simplest possible terms," he added.

Another tool in the SFAF arsenal is a foundation-sponsored Web site that takes the same frank approach to the realities of gay sex for many. The site is at www.gaylife.org, and contains clickable thumbnails of the Assumptions ads.

The Web site notes in part, "Many 'bottoms' who don't have HIV take refuge in the mistaken belief that all 'tops' are negative. While 'topping' does reduce the risk of getting HIV if you're uninfected, some men who 'bottom' use this knowledge to develop a

faulty 'risk calculus' that supports their desire to have unprotected anal sex. Some of the uninfected bottoms assume that their top is also uninfected by virtue of the fact that he is a 'top.' Some positive guys save barebacking for other positive guys. Some use their viral load as a way to measure risk.

"Some people take viral load into account when thinking about what kinds of sex to have, like whether or not to use condoms. If you have HIV it will be in your cum and precum. If you pull out before you cum the risk goes down although he could still get infected from your precum. Some men with HIV who don't use condoms pull out before cumming to make it less likely HIV will be passed on. Some men who don't have HIV ask the man fucking them to pull out before he cums to make it less likely they'll get HIV."

Byrnes warned that HIV prevention is complex and difficult.

"Behavior changes are a result of a number of different influences: there's no magic bullet. What you need is a complex interaction of interventions, to achieve behavior changes. The goal is to raise men's critical awareness when they make assumptions about their partner's HIV status.

"In the [next] evaluation, we'll measure whether guys are more aware ... we won't know how well it's worked till it's done.

"We're working on an estimated set of data. We explore lots of data, then field test thoroughly, when we do a social marketing

campaign."

The foundation, Byrnes said, has "a huge commitment with CAPS [the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies of the University of California, San Francisco]. This campaign was inspired by 200 interviews we did with men who had unprotected anal sex in the last six months.

"We worked with a team of social scientists such as anthropologists, and worked with social marketers through focus groups to refine the images."

Often Byrnes added, "People make assumptions about the safe-sex issue. In reality, it's a bit of a mix. There are assumptions, and as such there is a fair degree of margin, a wide margin of error. For example, an HIV-positive guy goes home with someone, he sees Poz magazine on the bedside table, and assumes the other person is also positive.

"For many, it's so hard to raise the HIV status issue. A negative bottom may assume that his partner would not put him at risk, so they don't use a condom.

"Or he assumes the sex is very meaningful, and so assumes the same behavior by his partner.

"With other types of interventions as well, guys build confidence, build negotiating skills with partners, so they have increasing control over the situation." ▼

For more info, go to www.gaylife.org or phone (415) 863-AIDS. SF AIDS Foundation's Web site is www.sfaf.org

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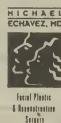
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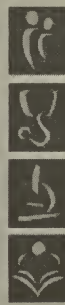
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Doctor dilemma

by Matt Sharp, Survive AIDS Writers Pool

Finding a new doctor after living with HIV for 12 years has been a difficult and frustrating experience. After a move to Chicago, I was in need of a new primary care physician as well as other specialty doctors that I could trust to provide as good or better care than I had in the 10 years I lived in San Francisco. Needless to say, the search was a frightening position in which to place myself. The complexity in treating AIDS today and the poor state of so-called managed care has put good HIV care in real jeopardy. Plus, since my care has become so complex, constant, and rather delicate, I require doctors that are essentially specialists in HIV. So, I soon found out that finding an appropriate, good doctor was not going to be an easy task.

Today, most care providers who treat a larger percentage of persons with HIV have become specialists of sorts due to the overwhelming and constantly changing treatment paradigm. These are specialists not even recognized by medical boards, government institutions, and the insurance industry. Having said that, knowing and understanding how to treat the disease has even become debatable by the experts who have tried to standardize guidelines for the treatment and care of people with HIV. Those specialists cannot even agree on standardization but only recommend certain treatment requirements for stages of the disease. The field of HIV medicine is so complex because we know now how individual HIV treatment is and understand that it is in constant fluctuation. Even with the guidelines, doctors with years of experience and their own knowledge in the field are at a loss. The best doctors will realize the individuality of HIV treatment.

I asked around and was referred to three different doctors, each with their own qualities and perspectives. Most of them had HIV experience but approached care differently. One was a research doctor at a local university. Another had a private practice with more of a "bedside manner," and a third doctor was very current with treatment trends and treated aggressively, while the other physician treated based on his own experience in his HIV

practice. The combination of the three of them would make a great doctor, but unfortunately my insurance would only cover the cost of one primary care physician. I had to make a choice.

Patients today are mostly knowledgeable in HIV, not only because of advocacy efforts over the years, but as a necessity due to the ongoing changes and discoveries in AIDS research. We've had to keep up with the current trends in order to stay alive. Sometimes that meant overseeing how our doctors prescribe medicine. But every patient is different and reacts differently to their care. As people with HIV are living longer and treatment of the disease becomes more complicated, it is especially important that the relationship, communication, and dialogue between the patient and the doctor be on par with each other. Long-term AIDS survivors know this better than most patients since they have had relationships with their doctors for several years. They have a broader understanding of their disease because they have dealt with it for years. They have educated themselves about their disease and have demanded the utmost care and appreciation.

Most patients place physicians on a pedestal and hold everything they say to be the bottom line without questions or interference. Patients who receive the best care, however, are those that take an active role in their treatment, questioning and learning as much as they can about their disease. They use a "team" approach involving the physician, their staff, case managers, and other practitioners of alternative and holistic medicine. And they keep up as best they can with the barrage of HIV treatment information in AIDS newsletters, support groups, the Internet, and hotlines.

There are a few helpful hints that may help people with their doctors, and guide them to overall better care. As with everything in life you mostly have the right to choose your own doctor at any point of your illness. Where you reside or what insurance plan you have may, however, limit your options. Remember that doctors work for you and are only human and

do make mistakes. That is why it is so important to have a team approach to your care, where several people become involved and may catch mistakes or problems unnoticed by the primary physician. It is also important to be as aware as possible to what is happening in terms of diagnosis, blood values, prescriptions, and a plan for the future.

Does your doctor communicate well? Does he/she have good eye contact with you? Is it easy to reach your doctor when you have a question? Do they return your calls and messages in a timely manner? Do they spend the appropriate amount of time with you per visit? It is true that doctors are burdened with a staggering

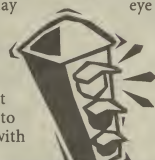
amount of paperwork these days but with managed care dictating the length of doctor visits, patients should leave the office feeling they have had their questions answered.

Do you ever actually see your doctor, or is it always the physician's assistant or nurse practitioner or intern that checks blood pressure, pulse, and temperature? Unless your health plan states otherwise, see the provider you are paying to see.

Do you have access to your medical records and blood test results? If you do, do you know how to interpret them?

Does your doctor have good "bedside manner"? Does he or she have a sense of humor? Do they give you a little hug at the end of the visit? (You may not want to hug them or vice versa!) Are they current with the literature and the available clinical trials you may be eligible for? Are they good strategists? Do they follow up well with test results and questions they promise to answer?

For me it was important to have a well-educated, current doctor who communicated well and made me feel as comfortable as possible upon every visit. A good doctor-patient relationship may be one of the most important in the life of a person with HIV. Even though there are difficulties in accessing the best doctors and the field is ever changing, as the patient, you are ultimately responsible for the quality of your care. It requires follow up and maintenance but you have to demand it. ▼



Survive AIDS

Davis budget has ADAP shortfall

by David Fraser

More than 24,000 HIV-positive people in California who depend on the AIDS Drug Assistance Program may lose crucial drugs that help prolong their lives, if the governor's revised budget goes through.

Project Inform and the San Francisco AIDS Foundation warned this week that Governor Gray Davis's failure to include new state money for HIV/AIDS could easily jeopardize the low-income people who rely on ADAP-provided drugs to keep them alive.

Unless there's a change, the governor's May revision of the budget means there is going to be a \$15 million shortfall in the state's portion of ADAP funding. Davis's Department of Finance estimates that ADAP will need the money for fiscal year 2001-2002 to meet rising enrollment, use

of drugs, and pharmaceutical prices, the foundation said.

Davis's preliminary budget in January projected the total program cost at \$149 million, with about \$44.5 million coming from Sacramento. Federal funding will have a minor increase.

The two advocacy groups urged people concerned to write the governor.

"This could mean cutting out entire classes of drugs that supplement HIV drugs," warned Anne Donnelly, Project Inform's public policy director.

"These drugs are critical for people who are dependent on ADAP," Donnelly told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "Without the \$15 million, it's going to leave them with no access to life-prolonging medicines. It's potentially devastating to their lives."

About 1,000 persons apply for the ADAP program each month.

"For Californians with HIV," said Dana Van Gorder, the SFAF director of state and local affairs, "an ADAP shortfall presents a dire consequence. Because the state cannot limit enrollment in the program, the only option available to control costs is to remove drugs from the list of treatment available to ADAP clients."

Van Gorder called the decision "simply unacceptable," adding that "June 5 marks the 20th year of this tragic epidemic. We call on Governor Davis to mark that occasion by recommitting the state to a compassionate response to the epidemic through full funding" for ADAP. ▼

Letters can be sent to: Office of Governor Gray Davis, State Capitol Building, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone: (916) 445-2841; fax: (916) 445-4633; e-mail: graydavis@governor.ca.gov.

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization - and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Steven Alan Ledford
(Little Bear)

October 20, 1951 — May 4, 2001



Little Bear left the stage to join the Music of the Spheres, Friday, May 4th, 2001. His life and spirit embodied the psychedelic. He was 49 years old.

Born Steven Alan Ledford on October 20, 1951 in Palo Alto, California, he moved to San Francisco in the late '70s and has been a resident of Noe Valley for 20 years.

With the influences of the Summer of Love, the Gay Deadheads, the SF Radical Faeries, and the Psychedelic Shop, Little Bear composed and arranged music for numerous bands, including Crazy Legs and the Temple Whores. He expressed himself through performance

and the visual arts, drawing inspiration from The Grateful Dead, Duke Ellington, John Philip Sousa, and Mozart.

A generous, creative, gentle spirit has moved on. He is survived by parents Margaret and Alan Ledford, sister Linda Allen, niece and nephew Lindsay and Chris Atherton, and many loving friends. A memorial celebration will be held on Sunday, May 20th from 1 to 4 pm at 1168 Church Street.

David I. Rose

June 7, 1946 — April 26, 2001

Dave Rose died suddenly from a massive heart attack on April 26, 2001. David was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan, but moved to San Francisco shortly after college. He was employed by City College as a database manager.

He was buried on April 29, 2001 next to his lover, Bruce H. Greenberg who died in 1987. He is survived by many loving friends in San Francisco and by relatives in California and Michigan.



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Susan Leal

◀ page 1

ees' spouses. Leal also took the lead in establishing the street camera program to crack down on red-light runners.

During her campaign for treasurer four years ago, Leal said that she would initiate a socially responsible investment program for city funds. That has been implemented, she said Monday, adding that even with the screen and the recent economic downturn, San Francisco's investment yield rates are higher than San Diego and Los Angeles counties and the state. "I said I would apply a socially responsible screen for all investments and we have," she said. "You can do the right thing in more than one way."

Another major change in the

treasurer's office concerns San Francisco's banking services. After Leal took office in 1998, she put the city's banking contracts out to bid, something that hadn't been done in decades. As a result of competitive bidding, Leal said, the city has enjoyed lower fees and better cash management.

Efficient and fair treatment of city taxpayers is another improvement in the treasurer's office, Leal said. "We are a department that takes money from folks, so let's make it easy. We're working very hard on customer service."

A number of city financial transactions can now be done online, she added, and her office has an audio ATM machine for the visually impaired.

The treasurer's office also is cracking down on parking lot operators who avoid paying their fair share to the city. Recent legislation

authored by Supervisor Mark Leno and unanimously adopted by the board could generate as much as \$25 million in tax revenue each year for seniors, Muni, and the city's general fund. Leal strongly supported the legislation.

"The city receives 25 percent of parking lot revenue," she said. "It's the largest single source of funds for seniors out of our general fund."

She added that recently, her office won court approval to place a civilian employee from the sheriff's department at one city parking lot who is personally collecting the money. "We took the pretty extreme action of going to court, under old common law, to put a 'keeper' at the lot. We took their [parking lot] money and we're going to keep doing that till we get our money back."

"It's your money I'm talking about," she added. ▼

AIDS vigil

◀ page 1

guage interpreters and sound equipment), organizers recently rejected a \$500 donation from Coors, the brewing company that conveniently has both a progressive giving program and a right-wing funding arm that company officials have for years said are "unaffiliated." The Coors family has donated to various efforts that are anti-choice, anti-gay, and AIDS-phobic, including the Free Congress Foundation which in 1987 published the vicious book, *Gays, AIDS, and You*.

"Accepting this money would amount to spitting on the graves of those who have AIDS," said Michael Lauro of Survive AIDS, who noted that individuals and organizations have all pitched in to replace what would have come from Coors. "The community response has been nothing short of overwhelming, especially as word spread that we had rejected the Coors offer. Local people and groups really stepped up to the plate."

Contingents marching in the

vigil are as diverse as the HIV-affected community itself. Pets Are Wonderful Support, for instance, will be marching as a group; people with AIDS, PAWS volunteers, and the animals that love them will all be present. Interested participants should bring their pets and meet at the PAWS office at before the march at 3248 16th Street between Guerrero and Dolores; call (415) 241-1473 for more information.

Also marching as a group will be Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco which for years now has held a pre-vigil service. This year's service, called "Fighting for Our Lives for 20 Years" takes place at MCC-SF, 150 Eureka Street, at 7 p.m. As a spiritual home that has been there for AIDS in its entirety, the Castro-based MCC has held hundreds of individual memorial services, perhaps more than any other church in America. Sunday's service will remember all of these faces once again as well as help to renew a commitment to fight the disease. As the service concludes, those attending take candles and march to Market Street where they will join other vigil participants.

that the agency was involved.

"We did receive a call about the incident," said Marcus Arana of the commission, "and we feel that we are close to resolving this issue."

The upcoming drag king benefit for PAWS, meanwhile, may or may not have farm animals in its promotional materials, but it will indeed have enough horsepower to keep those stallions kicking. The sixth annual Drag King contest will be held Saturday, July 14, and the money raised will go toward ensuring that people with AIDS can keep their furry and loyal companions. Call (415) 282-5378 for more information on how to enter. ▼

Corrections

The starting time for the celebration of life for Mr. Robert Basker was listed incorrectly in last week's obituary, "Longtime gay activist Bob Basker dies at 82." The correct time for the July 1 event is 2 p.m.

The Web site for HIV In-Site was incorrect in last week's Survive AIDS column, "Treatment Info: Reader beware." The correct Web address is <http://hivinsite.ucsf.edu>.

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SF Zoo

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Read was up front about everything, not even thinking that his gender presentation would be interpreted sexually or even come across as controversial.

How cross-dressing is equated with being anti-family and offensive to conservatives remains uncertain. A little intervention by the city's Human Rights Commission, however, may clear up that mystery; Read and others reported the incident and a representative from the commission confirmed

A & F

by Jim Provenzano

The *Advocate* and *Out* have long been accused of featuring straight people on their covers in an effort to reach a wider readership. Two faces that blur that line are twin models Lane and Kyle Carlson, who grace the cover of the notoriously nudity-filled XXX issue of the "Abercrombie & Fitch Quarterly," and the current issue of *Out*.

Displaying all the zombie-like appeal of store window mannequins in the ubiquitous fashion spread, the Carlson twins betray a polite acceptance of their gay fans in an interview with editor-in-chief Brendan Lemon, who never asks the college baseball and rugby jocks about their sexuality. Funny how the largest gay magazines manage to dance around that topic.

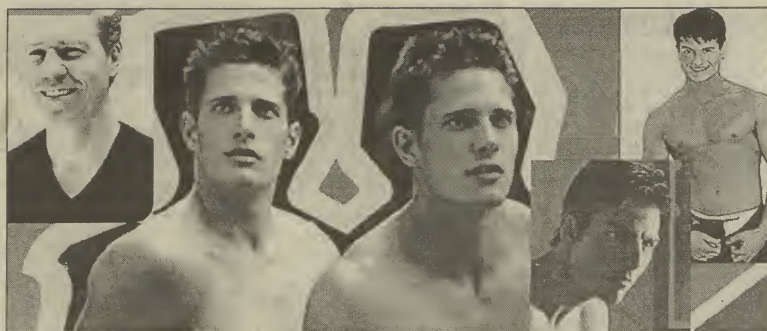
One name you won't see in either publication – at least until the

TV movie rights, 20/20 exclusive, and in-depth interview in one of these publications is secured – is the professional baseball player that editor Lemon claims to be dating.

In a case of dubious journalistic ethics, or merely crass marketing, Lemon claims to have been frustrated by dating a closeted "East Coast" baseball player of some fame, and how he wishes his beau would come out. He admits

"There is more than a little irony in the editor of the nation's largest-circulation gay magazine skulking around with someone so deep in the closet." No more than that same magazine perpetually featuring heterosexuals and closet cases on its cover.

Yet tongues have been wagging, and dozens of names have been posted on the message boards of Outsports.com, where a lot of guys seem to know more about players' sexual desires than the skulker-dating Lemon.



One of these things is not like the other: Lemon, Carlsons, Cruise, and Kyle.

Married-with-kid baseballer Gabe Kapler is assumed to be gay. After all, he poses for fitness mags alongside L.A. "models" (i.e. escorts) and porn performers. The ubiquitous Brady Anderson is mentioned, despite his having repeatedly and politely denied it, and dated many women. Anderson was even allegedly spotted at gay bar Moby Dick in the Castro. I would have happily bought him a drink, but that wouldn't make him gay (without a dash of our special homo elixir, of course).

Other names include good players of some renown. Funny

how they're all really handsome, like there's no such thing as an average-looking gay jock. Chicago Cubs pitcher Julian Tavarez – whose Bay Area "assholes and faggots" remark last month at Pac Bell Park earned us an apology and an undisclosed fine/donation for his John Rocker impersonation – did not make the list.

Semi-outings are like predicting the 2002 World Series. The rabid and often orchestrated media frenzy will happen when it happens, or when Lemon's publication – and his alleged beau – make it so. While a small paper's

writer may break it and get no credit (and about \$50), gayconglomero's flash celeb writer gets a few grand and a GLAAD Award for asking the same questions. In the words of Yogi Berra, "It's déjà vu all over again."

Broadcast

While CNN's coverage may not be fit to cover gay sports, its owner's ex-wife is fit, and made fitness a household word through popular exercise videotapes that sold millions, but are now probably gathering dust at a nearby garage sale, along with striped leotards.

Actress and former fitness guru Jane Fonda has given \$12,500,000 to Harvard University to establish a Center for Gender and Education. The center will bring together researchers, psychologists, and educators to help boys and girls fight the pressure of gender stereotypes.

Perhaps this might rectify the body image bulimia fit our nation and hundreds of thousands of people suffer from due to the warped images portrayed by fashion and fitness industries. They certainly should look into this whole "assholes and faggots" obsession among pro athletes.

Off the mat

Speaking of "A's" and "F's," despite years of speculation and wishful thinking, apparently the only things Tom Cruise and Kyle Bradford have in common are wrestling and rumors.

Cruise, then Thomas Malpother II, wrestled in high school in New Jersey. Bradford, whose real name is Phil Notaro, aka Chad Slater/Kyle Bradford/Brandon Slater (jeez, why not add Sybil?) pretends to wrestle in BG East's porn tapes.

Bradford's stories seem to change as fast as Polk Street hustler's hair color. His Web site features a black page with proclamations of "disgust" at the rumors, but Bradford's porn profile on ManNet.com states, in answer to Question #21, "Most humbling experience:" "When I met a famous actor – who shall remain nameless – and he wanted to wrestle with me."

Cruise's multimillion dollar lawsuit states that "Because Cruise is a motion picture actor, he is dependent upon worldwide public acceptance of his films. Losing the respect and enthusiasm of a substantial segment of the movie-going public would cost Cruise very substantial sums. While plaintiff believes in the right of others to follow their own sexual preference, vast numbers of the public throughout the world do not share that view and, believing that he had a homosexual affair and did so during his marriage, they will be less inclined to patronize Cruise's films, particularly since he tends to play parts calling for a heterosexual."

Yes, look how being perceived
next page ►

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CLASSIFIEDS

Sports Complex

◀ previous page

as gay ruined the careers of William Hurt, Javier Bardem, Billy Campbell, Dennis Rodman, Eric McCormack, Brady Anderson, Troy Aikman, Madonna, and a few dozen Abercrombie & Fitch models. Imagine the scandal if Cruise were, say, a member of a nefarious power-mongering cult started as a fluke by a second-rate science fiction writer.

Predatory behavior

There's nothing scandalous about hanging out with your fellow teammate, in his hotel room, after a game, with him laying on his bed, stark naked.

Since I don't regularly read the *San Francisco Chronicle*, a polite reader sent me an item that, while old, bears repeating through the gaydar filter.

Nashville Predators winger (that's hockey, I think) Scott Walker, a large handsome muscular fellow, by the way, seems to enjoy lounging about "au naturel" post-game, supposedly as a way of keeping his teammates away from him. Why the guys all love to hang out with the nude hunk and not go tomcatting is not explained in Tom Fitzgerald's "Open Season" column.

"I just take off all my clothes, sit on top of the sheets and anybody who wants to come sit beside me, that's fine," Walker is quoted as saying. "It usually keeps my side of the room pretty clear because all the guys sit with Fitzzy (team captain Tom Fitzgerald) on his bed."

Now, before we get back in bed with Scott, you're thinking, wait, two Toms? Was this an odd coincidence or type that both the columnist and the player are named Tom Fitzgerald? If they were Irish, would Tom Fitzpatrick and Patrick Fitztop?

How did the topic of a nude hockey player come up, and why did the columnist Tom have to ask the player Tom to keep his clothes on, since "You've got a good name to uphold?"

Brushing aside the homoerotic phobia of the columnist's simultaneously bringing up a sexy topic, then dismissing it with an anti-sexual quip, this makes me wonder if being openly gay doesn't qualify me for interviews with pro players about their sleeping habits and what other things they like to uphold.

I'd be happy to sit beside a naked Scott Walker on his hotel bed, his muscles steaming from a fresh shower, the coin-operated Magic Fingers buzzing away under us. A more probing and deeply personal interview could be had than the *Chron's* queasily queerish quips. Note to scribe Fitz: leave the gay stuff to sportswriters more familiar with A's & F's.

Milk dinner

◀ page 4

Southern California Council on Religion and the Homophile, and the Radical Faeries.

Hormel, who will be the featured speaker at the dinner, served as United States ambassador to Luxembourg from June 1999 until December 2000. He is the former chairman of Equidex Inc., in San Francisco, an investment management firm that manages his investments, business dealings, and philanthropy. Over the years he has been a major supporter of LGBT health and human rights organizations.

Other honorees at the Milk

Memo: Real day

In real out GLBT sports, next weekend will be quite busy. Tennis, martial arts, and wrestling clubs all celebrate their efforts with competitions galore. Check back next week for more info. In the meantime, visit their Web sites or call for info: Tennis: <http://www.gltf.org/> or call Kyle at (415) 584-4461.

Wrestling: <http://www.ggwc.org>, call (415) 487-8902, or send e-mail to captain@ggwc.org.

Martial arts: Andy McGuire (IAGLMA) at (415) 566-6121 or via e-mail at tkdusa@aol.com.

Voted off the island

Team San Francisco members voted their decision for the Federation of Gay Games regarding the five bid proposals for Gay Games VI in 2006. They recommended that the following four bidding organizations continue the bidding: Atlanta Games Inc., Chicago 2006, Los Angeles 2006 Inc., and Montreal 2006.

The Gay Games 2006 Los Angeles Bid Committee, the apparent lesser of two LA bids, was eliminated. There had been talk that the two Los Angeles groups merging, but that doesn't seem like it's going to happen. The four remaining groups will be asked to make a full presentation in Johannesburg in November.

No exit

There's nothing funny or gay about the two horrifying sports events in Africa. Over 120 people died in a melee at a soccer match in Ghana on May 9. Police sprayed tear gas when fans threw bottles. The fans ran for exits, which were locked.

Only weeks before, almost 50 people died in riots at another soccer match in Johannesburg, South Africa, almost before the match even started. While the major media took the "fact" that oversold tickets were at fault, several attendees wrote letters to Web sites and newspapers saying it wasn't true, but mere mob rule that resulted in the stampede.

Johannesburg is hoping to host the World Cup in 2010. With such rampantly inept crowd control, that seems doubtful. But being the kind of culture that ignores increasingly horrifying tragedies, where kindergarten kids are stabbed and shot at, it probably won't make a difference. Such monstrosities will probably be part of the season finale of *Survivor VIII*.

By now you've seen or read the news in the headlines, while sportscasters on "news" shows like KRON focus on the important things: corporate-sponsored jump-roping competitions, a golfer's prostate cancer, and drugie Matthew Perry's presence at a basketball game. All the news that fits. ▼

Club dinner include Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition attorney Sue Hestor, and the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative. A special acknowledgment will be given to longtime club member and gay hero, Bob Basker, who recently died, for his many contributions.

The event begins with cocktails at 6:30 p.m., followed by dinner at 7:30. Individual tickets are \$35-\$100, sliding scale. All proceeds will benefit political and community work on behalf of tenants, queer homeless youth, people of color, people with HIV, working people, LGBT immigrants, and others. Those interested in attending the dinner should call (415) 753-1584 or (510) 430-0439. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 319727

In the Matter of the Application of Ma Khin Shwe Gyi, For change of Name. The application of Ma Khin Shwe Gyi for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ma Khin Shwe Gyi has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to San Shwe Khine. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of May, 2001 at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **APRIL 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248293
The following person(s) are doing business as: MediGrow, 1306 D Gateway Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kent C. Taylor. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/19/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/01. **APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248244
The following person(s) are doing business as: Applied Learning Solutions, Inc. 1072 14th Street, San Francisco 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Diane Valenti, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/1/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/01. **APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248241
The following person(s) are doing business as: Lam Hai Ky Restaurant, 2337 Irving Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Ty Quoc Luu and Ann Ngoc Tran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/17/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/17/01. **APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248337
The following person(s) are doing business as: V.I.P. Social Club, 5033 Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by an individual signed Paul E. Bernard. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/23/01. **APR. 26, MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248296
The following person(s) are doing business as: Visage Medical Day Spa, Visage 490 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Michael Echavez, president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 4/01/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/19/01. **APR. 19, 26, MAY 3, 10, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248028
The following person(s) are doing business as: Nuzu, 510 Valencia Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a Non Profit Organization signed Cue, Inc., JoAnne Sanchez, Director of Business Enterprises. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 01/16/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/09/01. **MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001**

The following person(s) are doing business as: Bella Bella Catering, 1479 10th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Sauncey L. O'Leary. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, 04/24/01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/26/01. **MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248413
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gee Tee's Sand And Gravel, 363 Head Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94132. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gregory Nathaniel Tyson. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/25/01. **MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248502
The following person(s) are doing business as: Rong Li International Company, 2408 38th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94116. This business is conducted by an individual signed Victoria Wei Li Li. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 04/30/01. **MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Chaung Tina Kue Hua, Tong Frank Sein Min. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 825 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94103. Type of license Applied for: **41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE** **MAY 3, 10, 17, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320679
In the Matter of the Application of Sarah Elizabeth White, For change of Name. The application of Sarah Elizabeth White for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Sarah Elizabeth White has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Sarah Jane Dylan White. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 25th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248648
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Sandwich Shop, 635 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual signed Chong S. Chin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, June 4, 01. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/04/01. **MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001**

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0237859-00
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: The Sandwich Shop. Located at: 635- 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. The fictitious name referred in above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: 1/24/2000. This business was conducted by: a individual: Yun S. Lee. **MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2000**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Berkeley Stephen Charles. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1081 Post Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. Type of license Applied for: **48-ON SALE GENERAL PUBLIC PREMISES** **MAY 10, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 320274
In the Matter of the Application of Brian Cash Geer, For change of Name. The application of Brian Cash Geer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Brian Cash Geer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Brian Cash. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 7th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321029
In the Matter of the Application of Gregory James Sekeres, For change of Name. The application of Gregory James Sekeres for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Gregory James Sekeres has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Gregory James Szekeres. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 9th day of June at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAY 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001**

STATEMENT FILE NO. 248806
The following person(s) are doing business as: Jalaram Investment Inc. 2060 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Amit Motawala, President. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on, May 10, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 05/11/01. **MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001**

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO. 321162

In the Matter of the Application of Diane Kang For change of Name. The application of Diane Kang for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Diane Kang has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rhee Jun Kang. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 12th day of July at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. **MAY 17, 24, 31, JUNE 7, 2001**

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOL BEVERAGE LICENSE
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Lam Shu Hong, Lam Kin Bun. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 475 Third Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. Type of license Applied for: **41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE** **MAY 20, 2001**

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Director, choreographer Susan Stroman's
Tony Award-winning musical comes to SF.
page 33

Art beat, San Francisco
A survey of May offerings
in the city's art galleries.
page 40



Ivory cameo
Director James Ivory
on 'The Golden Bowl.'
page 28



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 31 • No. 20 • 17 May 2001

Director Moisés Kaufman brings *The Laramie Project* to Berkeley Repertory

RETURN TO LARAMIE

by Richard Dodds

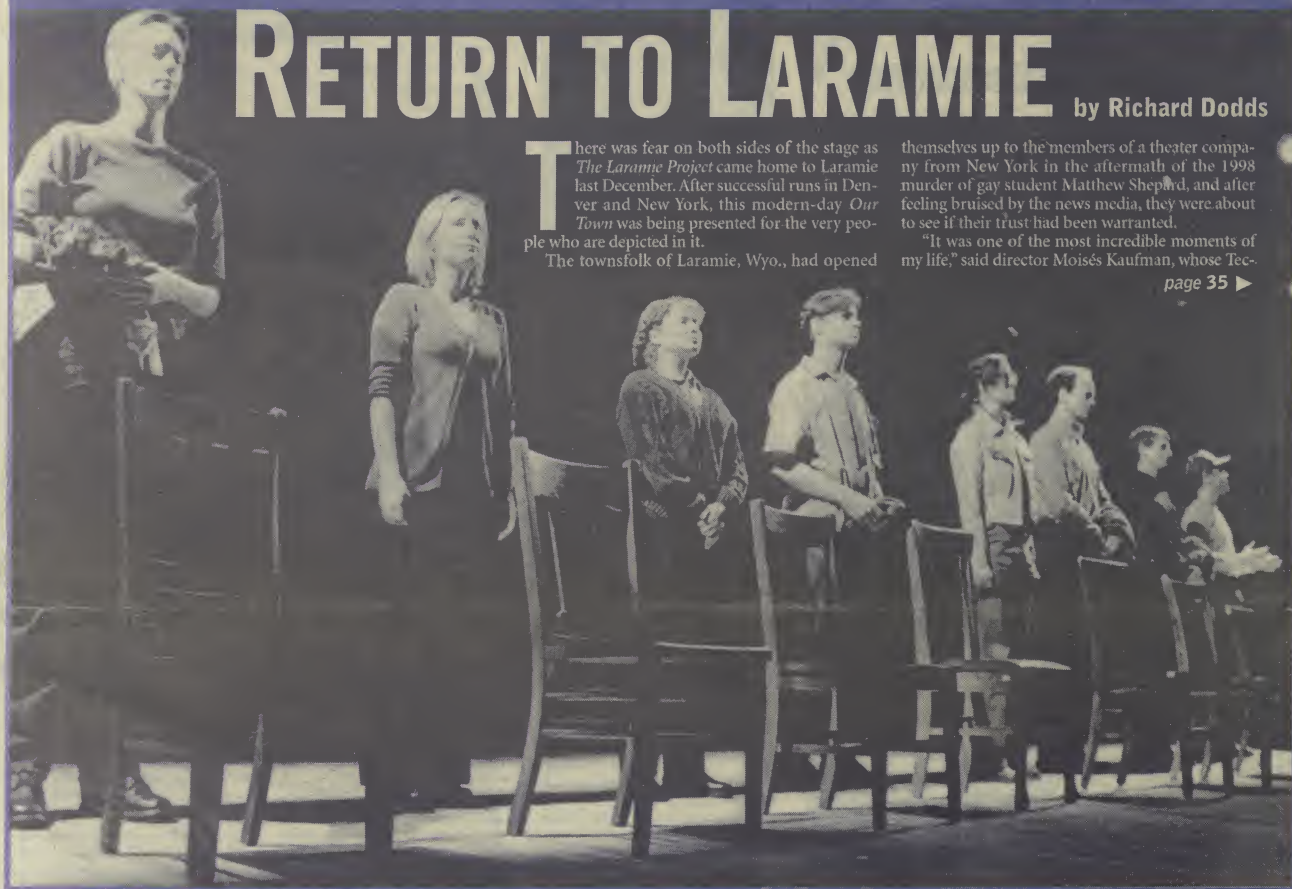
There was fear on both sides of the stage as *The Laramie Project* came home to Laramie last December. After successful runs in Denver and New York, this modern-day *Our Town* was being presented for the very people who are depicted in it.

The townsfolk of Laramie, Wyo., had opened

themselves up to the members of a theater company from New York in the aftermath of the 1998 murder of gay student Matthew Shepard, and after feeling bruised by the news media, they were about to see if their trust had been warranted.

"It was one of the most incredible moments of my life," said director Moisés Kaufman, whose Tec-

page 35 ►



San Francisco Opera director's exit interview

LOTFI MANSOURI LOOKS BACK WITH CANDOR

by Stephanie von Buchau

If Lotfi Mansouri, departing General Director of San Francisco Opera, is remembered for one seminal act, it will be for inventing operatic titles when he was GD of the Canadian Opera in Toronto. In San Francisco, he directed my all-time favorite production, 1967's *L'Elisir d'amore* with Reri Grist and Alfredo Kraus, and he presided over the successful refurbishing of the War Memorial Opera House after the Loma Prieta earthquake.

Artistically, however, his legacy seems to me to rest in an odd area. His reputation as a stage director who loved music but didn't care about such niceties as who was conducting proved untrue in San Francisco, where the conducting choices improved markedly over those of predecessors Kurt Herbert Adler and Terence McEwen. Mansouri is responsible for SFO's long, fruitful association with the Kirov's Valery Gergiev; with signing the ambitious, left-handed Scot, Donald Runnicles, as music director; and with the development, however haphazard, of Patrick Summers from Merola coach to international podium star.

Unlike his predecessors, Mansouri has never taken exception to the censorious things I've said about his regime. For one thing, he doesn't read reviews.

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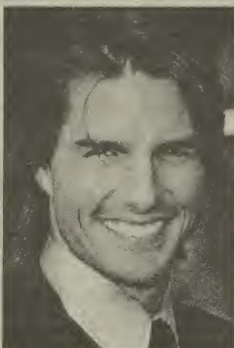
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by Roberto Friedman
and Tab Lloyd

When the news broke last week that tiny movie star Tom Cruise had filed a \$100 million defamation lawsuit against a gay porn star who alleged his sex affair with Cruise led to the break-up with Aussie actress Nicole Kidman, Out There was prepared to ignore it. Why fan the flames, we figured, the miniature stud was in enough trouble.



Tom Cruise in hot water

Then the entire media world jumped on the story like a tomcat on Viagra. To get the "gay take" on the scandal, TV news crews poked their cameras and cables into the B.A.R.'s offices, and flirted with our handsome staff. Even stodgy old Newsweek magazine got in on the action, speculating nastily on Kidman's motives for providing a timetable in her lawsuit on just when she and Cruise were still "intimate" — past their 10th anniversary, therefore worth more alimony bucks.

Since the mainstream media have already shot their wad about this tawdry affair, turning the focus back on heterosexual institutions like divorce and alimony, OT thought we'd remind everybody of just where it all began: sweaty, man-to-man homosex. The "porn star" in question alleged to a French magazine (always trouble) that he met Cruise when he was hired as an escort, and that his assigned task was to wrestle naked with the diminutive matinee idol on a padded mat.

Cruise, who previously won a

defamation suit against the *National Enquirer*, may be feeling emboldened about going after *bleu* magazines. But an informal poll of B.A.R. editors showed a very high percentage of us had no trouble at all imagining the pocket Adonis nude-grappling with a call boy. You think?

Foul play

When the tired old gang from *Survivor I* played a recent "celebrity" edition of mean NBC quiz show *The Weakest Link* last week, OT was newly astonished by how slack and stretched-out the definition of celebrity has become. We'd also forgotten how gravel-stupid the crew from the island truly is — with the exception of mean queen Richard Hatch,



Richard Hatch: bumped off

of course. Make a long story short: pretty-but-can't-type Joel couldn't name Narcissus, nice irony that.

Although he got the most answers right, Machiavellian victor Hatch was unanimously voted off by Ramona, Sean, Joel, Gretchen and Sue in the very first round. Asked why, Ramona replied unconvincingly, "He's the tallest one on the podium." Told "that doesn't wash with me" by stern quiz hostess Anne Robinson, Ramona fessed up: "OK, because he's the gayest one on the podium." The audience cheered.

Film clips

In all the coverage we saw of *Keep the River on your Right...*, the biopic of gay anthropologist Tobias Schneebaum, nothing prepared us for the most disturbing scene in the film. Schneebaum supplements his Social Security income by speaking about native tribes on cruise ships, and we see him and a boatload of tourists descend upon an Indonesian tribe's circumcision rite, which is recorded in graphic detail by the filmmakers and assorted gawkers with

camcorders. Certainly more barbaric than any cannibalism...

Hart to heart

Playwright and director Moss Hart was hardly a gay libber, but as he lived his whole life in the theater, and was a homo, surely he had more amorous encounters than are recounted in biographer Steven Bach's

Dazzler: The Life and Times of Moss Hart (Knopf).

On the speculation that Hart and Broadway legend Cole Porter had an affair, Bach asserts "taste argues against it. Porter was attracted to sailors and rough-hewn types (he and

[E.M.] Woolley cruised New York together for sexual partners — the Greenwich Village docks for Porter, Harlem for Woolley), while Moss seems to have had a weakness for men younger than himself."

Actor Jess Barker, who had a role in *George S. Kaufman & Hart's You Can't Take It with You*, said that "during the run of the play he found it difficult to act because of Moss's habit of sitting in a box seat overlooking the stage 'night after night' and staring at him with 'frank sexual interest.'"



Moss Hart, New York, 1947-48

Apparently, Hart had a thing for actors. "Thank God I had my heart attack and could get out of *Camelot*," he is quoted as saying. "It was the only way I could keep from being tough on [the young] Robert Goulet and taking out on him how much I resented him for being so attractive."

Alas, after Hart's marriage to Kitty Carlisle (who didn't cooperate with this biography), Kitty apparently laid down the law at their Bucks County home, and so "there would be no more nude sunbathing parties with the boys around the pool." After the arrival of baby Christopher, Hart gloated, "Now they won't be able to say I'm gay anymore." But he was wrong. ▼

Tobias Schneebaum in *Keep the River on your Right...*

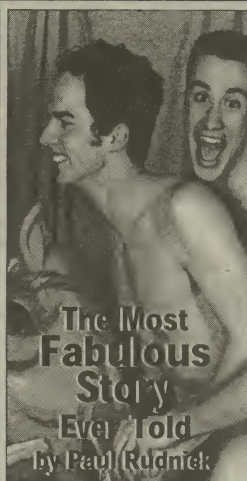
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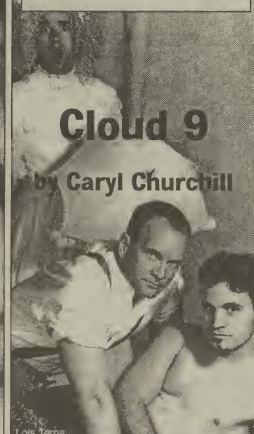
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Fabulous enough for Paul Rudnick

'The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told' opens in San Francisco

by Richard Dodds

The religious fundamentalists wielding the picket signs didn't mean to inspire a comedy. But when Paul Rudnick saw "God didn't make Adam and Steve" on their placards, his sly mind went to work.

"It occurred to me one day, what if God had made Adam and Steve, and the first two lesbians, Jane and Mabel, as well?" Rudnick said. "That seemed like the jumping-off point for a comedy, as well as an investigation into faith told very much from a gay perspective."



Playwright Paul Rudnick

The result was *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, a 1998 Off-Broadway hit that is having its San Francisco premiere this weekend at the New Conservatory Theatre Center. The first act is set in the Garden of Eden, as Earth's first queer couples make sense of their surroundings, while the second act transfers the characters to contemporary times, where they deal with the ramifications of the faiths they had developed.

The play can be outrageously funny, but the seriously silly author of *Jeffrey* had more on his mind than just laughs. In his review of the play for *The New York Times*, chief critic Ben Brantley wrote, "There's reverence in Mr. Rudnick's irreverence, an earnest warmth beneath the frivolity. By the evening's end, all those jokes come to seem, as that eminent theologian Madonna once sang, 'like a prayer.'"

Rudnick, speaking from his home in Manhattan, agreed: "I didn't want it to ever feel like it was just Bible satire or a cheap shot at religion. I wanted it to really get at what is behind anyone's need for faith, or rejection of faith, or even anger at God."

And Rudnick being Rudnick, he wanted to tread dicey territo-

ries. "I've written a number of plays that have dealt with sex, which no longer feels particularly taboo," he said. "So I wondered if there are any subjects that do still feel a little bit off-limits. If you ask a friend about his sex life, you'll be there for the next three hours. But if you ask someone if they believe in God, you're crossing a line."

Of course, that brings up the question of Rudnick's own beliefs. Though he has said he was raised as "a wildly reformed Jew," he said he's currently comfortable with the labels agnostic or atheist. "But there's still that 5-year-old part of me that's always glancing to heaven for a possible thunderbolt."

If he does worship, it's at the altar of theater. "My experiences in the theater and in comedy were some of the most deeply felt of my life," Rudnick said. "And I began to feel that if I had any religion, it involved the worship of theater, of the talents involved, and of the sheer joy that a live theatrical experience can bring. I don't know if that's a substitute for God, but that's something that feels transcendent to me."

Rudnick, who has a trio of one-acts opening in New York in the fall, found that theatrical transcendence doesn't always pay the rent. "Hollywood has subsidized my theater work," he said. "My heart is still 100 percent with the theater."

His screenplays have included *Addams Family Values*, *In & Out*, *Isn't She Great?*, and a comedy titled *Marcy X* now shooting in New York with Lisa Kudrow and Damon Wayans as its stars.

"It's about this romance between a very rich Jewish girl and a wild rap star," Rudnick said. "It's set in the middle of one of those censorship battles where the rap star's latest CD is being banned. I tried to think of something outrageous to write about where I had just no business meddling. It's another one of those taboo topics."

Despite its irreverence, *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* didn't create much controversy among the religious right. Terrence McNally's *Corpus Christi*, which had opened earlier that season, absorbed the brunt of that fury. There was actually more of a backlash to the play in the gay world.

"I think there's this politically correct tizzy among factions of the gay community who are desperate to have gay characters only portrayed as straight-seeming,"

Rudnick said. "There's a sense that if you create any gay characters who are flamboyant that you will alienate the mainstream and get us all in trouble. I'd rather celebrate this wonderful gay tradition of outrageous behavior than worry about it to death."

For more info on *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told*, call NCTC at 861-8972.

Concerted efforts

After a smash run of the musical *Chess*, the New Conservatory Theatre Center is high on its *In Concert* series of few-frills productions of seldom-seen musicals. Here's a look at what's coming up during the 2001-2002 season.



Backstage

Tapestry (Oct. 31 - Dec. 2) — The songs of Carole King, both from her eponymous 1971 album, and from her Brill Building songwriting days, were bundled together for a 1993 Off-Broadway revue. Among the King classics that will be heard are "I Feel the Earth Move," "You've Got a Friend," "Natural Woman," "One Fine Day," and "Up on the Roof."

The All-Night Strut (Dec. 12-Jan. 20) — This collection of songs from the '30s and '40s had a brief Off-Broadway run in 1979 but has become a popular nostalgia-flavored attraction in the succeeding years. "Lullaby of Broadway," "In the Mood," and "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" are a sampling of show's golden oldies.

Passion (March 6 - 31) — Stephen Sondheim's most recent Broadway musical to date opened in 1994 and took home the Tony Award as best musical of the season. With a book by James Lapine, it explores the obsessive love of a homely invalid for a handsome army captain in 19th-century Italy.

Secrets Every Smart Traveler Should Know (May 29 - July 14) — Twenty writers contributed songs and sketches to this 1997 comic revue about the good, the bad, and the ugly of being a tourist.

Subscription tickets are \$45-\$96. Call 861-8972 for more information.

Short scenes

**Betty's Summer Vacation* turns into a holiday from hell as her housemates reveal various psychoses, and the rented house turns out to be haunted by a laughtrack. The latest from Christopher Durang has its West Coast premiere this week at Actors Theatre of San Francisco. Call 296-9179.

**Victor/Victoria*, which

brought Julie Andrews back to Broadway in 1995, is having its West Coast premiere this week at the American Musical Theatre of San Jose. Jennifer Allen, who replaced Faith Prince in *Guys and Dolls*, is playing the title character, and Broadway veteran Lee Roy Reams is playing Toddy. Call (888) 455-SHOW.

*Mardi Gras in New Orleans at the dawn of the 20th century is where Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* characters will find themselves beginning May 23 at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. Call 474-8800. ▼



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James Ivory goes bowling

by Brandon Judell

If there's ever to be a glossy national magazine spotlighting gay, hot older men, James Ivory as the issue's premiere centerfold would be a wise choice. Dapper, distinguished, literate, dryly acerbic and solidly built to a degree, this director, now in his 73rd year, has brought more joy to American filmgoers who read Proust and Joyce Carol Oates for fun than any other helmer around.

Born in Berkeley, California, educated at the University of Oregon, and a longtime companion of the cookbook writer and film producer Ismail Merchant, Ivory has directed such celebrated films as *Shakespeare Wallah*, *The Europeans*, *A Room With a View*, *The Bostonians*, *Maurice*, *The Remains of the Day*, and the superb but overlooked *A Soldier's Daughter Never Cries*. Now comes his adaptation of *The Golden Bowl*, which has had a phenomenal reception in England.

"This is arguably the best film from James Ivory," crowed *The London Evening Standard*. "A sophisticated drama for grown-ups," hailed *The Guardian*. And *The London Sunday Observer* agreed: "Ivory coasts to another triumph."

Even if you disagree, it's more because Henry James fails to reach Ivory's heights than the other way around this time.

To discuss *The Golden Bowl* and other matters, B.A.R. sat down with Ivory in overly stuffed high-backed chairs that brazenly

faced each other in his Essex House hotel room in New York City a few weeks ago.

Before hitting the personal, I thought I'd start on safer ground with some Henry James rap. I noted that, according to a Gore Vidal essay, James was exuberantly happy when he wrote *The Golden Bowl*. The reason was he was living with a "charming Anglo-Irish man-about-town" named Jocelyn Persse.

"That some kind of wishful thinking there or something on Gore's part," Ivory retorted. "That never happened to Henry James."

"That he never had gay desires?" I gasped, horrified to note

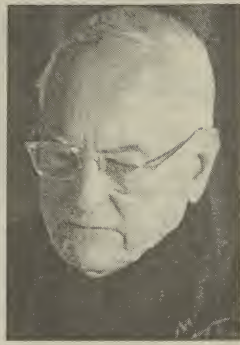
Vidal might have erred.

"James fell in love easily many, many times as an older man," Ivory explained, "but he was never writing from any sort of sense of a happy love affair or a happy life, or anything of that kind in which all those kinds of hopes are ever fulfilled. I mean, that didn't happen for him."

Properly abashed, I timidly queried, "Now should we consider James a gay writer? Or if you would prefer, a writer who is gay?"

"Well, we've read virtually every scrap of every letter he's ever written, and we know his feelings," Ivory continued after

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Director James Ivory

Not queer yet, but...

by Brandon Judell

The religious right is correct! You can turn a gay man straight! Why, ever since Uma Thurman touched my left hand, I've been memorizing baseball stats and wearing Dockers that hang loose on my ass.

This transmutation occurred when the stupefying Ms. Thurman, the wife of Ethan Hawke and mother of Maya Ray Thurman-Hawke, showed up at the Essex House to promote her part in James Ivory's adaptation of Henry James' *The Golden Bowl*. (Gay director! Gay author! Un-

readable book!) She was attired in Jean-Paul Gaultier leather, as should we all.

In this exquisite-looking costume drama with its dysfunctional family plot, Uma stars as the very unhappy Charlotte Stant. Impoverished, she is forced to marry a school friend's billionaire father so she can commit adultery with her pal's spouse, who happens to be an Italian prince. Well, can you blame her? Which one of us wouldn't commit unsavory actions for a night with Prince William?

Anyway, Uma couldn't get through the dreadful book, either. Laughing radiantly, this Thinking Woman's Heather Locklear admits, "Never completely. I'd skim: Charlotte... Charlotte... Charlotte... My little joke is that the movie is for all those who began *The Golden Bowl* and would like to know how it ends."

The skimming apparently paid off. Uma was able to get into the mind of a woman who has the hots for her son-in-law. "You know, I suddenly realized Charlotte's behavior is a total mirror reflection of Scarlett O'Hara's. Actually, the book is very similar to *Gone With the Wind* in its Rhett Butler/Scarlett kind of dynamic. And when I figured that out, I then understood everything the character did. It's that 'love excuse,' as I like to think of it. It's



Actress Uma Thurman

that thing of a woman's simple inability to believe that she's given herself to a man who didn't love her. It's that one key misrepresentation of the truth to herself that allows her to fall further and further away from any type of moral center, or any sense of reality."

Moving from fantasy to reality, how does Uma feel that, according to several unscientific surveys, more lesbians would rather sleep with her than with Anne Heche?

Uma laughs. "It's nice work if you can get it. I'm thrilled. I don't know what to say. It's a door that I haven't yet opened in life. But you know, if my marriage doesn't

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Flaws in the glass

Merchant Ivory's 'The Golden Bowl' opens

by Michael McDonagh

It wasn't long ago that Henry James (1843-1916) was considered to be one of the most un-filmable of all novelists. But many directors have tried. We've had Wyler's classic *The Heiress* (1949) with Olivia de Havilland and Montgomery Clift, Bogdanovich's *Daisy Miller* (1974) with then-girlfriend Cybill Shepherd, Truffaut's *The Green Room* (1978), Softley's *Wings of the Dove* (1997), Holland's *Washington Square* (1997), Campion's *Portrait of a Lady* (1996), and perhaps most famously, James Ivory's *The Europeans* (1979) with Lee Remick, and *The Bostonians* (1984) with Vanessa Redgrave.

Now the director weighs in yet again with his stunning new film of James' last novel, *The Golden Bowl* (1904), from his controversial final period. Controversial because, as Oscar Wilde remarked, "It talks more and says less as it goes on," though some find the late works a marvel of psychological penetration and a triumph of style. A basic, almost Harlequin romance is usually embedded in all that elegant prose. But James always ups the ante, and his stories are usually about the conflicts, confusions and mergers between love and money. And his simple plot here exposes these tensions.

Boy—a dashing prince—and girl meet, fall in love, but can't marry because they're poor. Boy gets engaged to girl's heiress friend, and his girl marries her billionaire father. Couple number one starts carrying on again, and everyone covers up the adultery until heiress—now a princess—buys a golden bowl which uncovers their secret. The fact explodes: the characters are forced to face themselves and the choices they've made. It's your typical *noir* plot, but in James and in Ruth Jhabvala's expert and freely imagined script, a wealth of conflicted emotions and motives vie for each other.

The opening scenes are short and rapidly establish story, mood and character. Prince Amerigo (Jeremy Northam) is presented as handsome, charming and very Old World, while impoverished Charlotte Stant (Uma Thurman) is gorgeous, vulnerable and passionate. They have a lot of chemistry in these early scenes, and a later one, in which the two meet on the sly in a beautifully appointed London room, is astounding in its force, with quick cuts of the lover's hands. These convey the very moment of desire, and this scene resembles the one in Ivory's overlooked masterpiece *Maurice* (1987) where Maurice (James Wilby) and Clive (Hugh Grant) touch and kiss. The erotic tension between holding back and yielding mirrors James' other themes. What is the price of keeping secrets, and do we hurt or protect each other by not telling the truth? These aren't intellectual games but emotional ones, and Ivory's picture is hypnotic in effect—steady, detailed and intense. The players in this house of cards

do the best they can to keep up appearances.

Fanny Assingham (Angelica Huston) is certainly a master arranger (and looks like James' description), but she's appalled nonetheless by the Prince and Charlotte's brazen conduct, though not averse to pouring on her Southern charm when the moment demands. Jhabvala's script distills the essence of Fanny's relationship with her husband Col. Bob Assingham (James Fox), and even the tiny bits she takes from a big chapter devoted to their speculations about the lovers and Amerigo's wife Maggie (Kate Beckinsale) get the tone and feeling right.

James' characters display varying degrees of innocence and self-knowledge. Ivory's actors all rise to the challenge of their parts: Thurman spoiled, vixenish, wildly emotional; Beckinsale a lovely delicate flower, but fiercely resolved when need be; Northam suave, deferential in both manner and

body language; Nick Nolte the rough but sensitive businessman; Huston the knowing link in the game; and Madeleine Potter the tart and lively Lady Castledean.

Ivory's collaborator on some of his best projects, Tony Pierce-Roberts, has lit and shot the film so well that the color contrasts are dramatic, even shocking, but also evocative and emotionally right. Andrew Sanders' production design and John Bright's costumes are also superb. But *The Golden Bowl* succeeds because it's all of a piece, and because it makes the characters matter. "I had come to miss you so much I thought my heart would break," Charlotte says to Amerigo. You feel her care and her sorrow. Not a mean thing for a picture to accomplish, especially in these relentlessly dumbed-down times, when we expect so little, and usually get much less than we expect. But not here. ▼



Jack English

The Golden Bowl opens May 18.

Jeremy Northam and Kate Beckinsale in *The Golden Bowl*



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Welles and Kafka together

'The Trial' plays the Castro Theatre

by Tavo Amador

Orson Welles was born to film Franz Kafka's unfinished 1925 novel, *The Trial*. Its surrealist structure, graphic, hallucinatory imagery, and lack of traditional plot all play to Welles' strengths as a director. He was free to indulge in one nightmarish sequence after another, unburdened by conventional logic or tight storytelling structure. After the expensive commercial failure of *The Lady from Shanghai* (1948), Welles could not get much financial backing for his subsequent projects. Although he directed 1958's *Touch of Evil*, he was only paid to act in it. Somehow, he raised the money in Europe to make this 1962 movie, which plays the Castro Theatre on Friday, May 18.

Anthony Perkins stars as Joseph K., a minor bank officer

who lives in a boarding house in an unnamed European city. He is awakened by plainclothes policemen, who tell him he is being charged with a crime, without ever telling him what it is. They are accompanied by three of his professional colleagues, who are silent but seem to be looking for evidence of some kind. At first he insists the police must be mistaken and that he has nothing to fear. He is initially consoled by another boarder (Jeanne Moreau). Although they are attracted to each other, she soon makes it clear she wants nothing to do with him — she is frightened that his problems will become hers.

Determined to establish his innocence, Joseph goes from one labyrinthine setting to another, each filled with dehumanized people. His bank office seems no different from the courthouse where accused individuals await their trial with the resignation of souls in limbo. At one point, he does speak out, warning that "they" will not get away with it — that human dignity and freedom cannot be ignored so easily. He discovers that he is wrong.

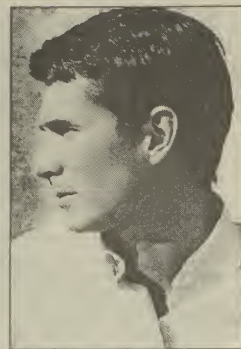
A cousin and an uncle offer assistance, the latter mainly concerned about the family's well-being. At his insistence, Joseph goes to see *The Advocate* (Welles), who is influential and can help him. The Advocate's assistant, Leni, is played by Romy Schneider. She finds condemned men sexy and quickly seduces Joseph. One client, Bloch (Akin Tamiroff), has been waiting to see *The Advocate* for a long time and sleeps in an airless maid's room, wanting to be

near just in case he is summoned. The Advocate's offices are as maze-like as the courthouse or the other government buildings. Each turn leads to another strange discovery, another false hope, or another dead end, increasing Joseph's fears and panic.

Horror houses

The film's black-and-white images are startling. Elegant neo-Baroque buildings are contrasted with blank highrises, each as impenetrable as the last, each housing some new horror, each promising respite, only to renege and increase Joseph's terror when confronted by the complete lack of reason or integrity he finds everywhere. His sense of insignificance is like what visitors feel when walking through the overwhelming temples of Ancient Egypt, which were designed to dwarf human beings. Welles' script and Edmond Richard's cinematography superbly evoke Hannah Arendt's famous assessment of totalitarian states, whether Marxist or Fascist: that they require emotionally isolated people to thrive. Such states make individuals feel alienated from their community, so that they are focused on their own survival, and are no longer able to help a neighbor in trouble. Instead, they look the other way, grateful that they are not the ones the police have come to take away.

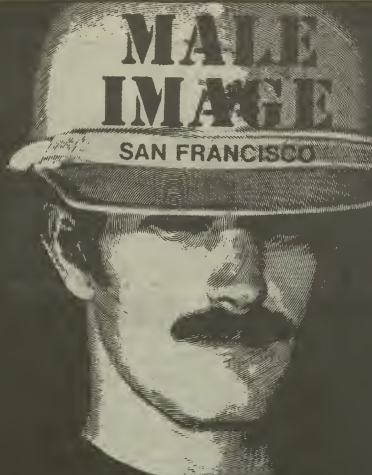
Welles narrates several sections eloquently, and is well-cast as *The Advocate*: inscrutable, self-indulgent, arrogant, sadistic, and, like everyone else, frightened. It's a grand part and he relishes it, filling



Anthony Perkins in 1962

the screen figuratively and literally. His veteran colleague Tamiroff grovels with long-established proficiency, yet manages to make Bloch's sniveling touching; he's all weepy terror. Moreau is fine, although her role is far too brief. Schneider, a popular Austrian ingenue and staple of European films in the '50s and '60s, is lively and charmingly kinky as Leni.

But the acting honors go to Perkins, who does some of his best work in this film. His handsome face, with its tight expression, perfectly conveys a man trying to conceal his feelings. It is impossible not to read into Joseph's evermore desperate attempts to escape the corrupt police Perkins' own guilt-ridden attempts to flee from his homosexuality. He uses denial, charm, money, anger, logic, sympathy, only to watch them all blunted by the unblinking bureaucrats he meets at every turn. In the gripping climax, he at last is freed from his nightmare, but at a terrible price. ▼



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Uma Thurman

◀ page 28

work out, I just don't know."

Taking a second to focus on her lesbian adulation, she continues, "Well, I've played a lot of characters that are sort of sexually ambiguous, either lesbian or bisexual. In *Cowgirls Get the Blues*, I was omnisequal, and in *Henry and June*, I was sort of omnisequal, too. So I think that may be part of

the reason.

"Also, I don't have any discrimination. I don't have any problem embodying that. I have all but love for it."

But by taking on these roles, parts actresses might have rejected 10 or 20 years ago, Uma is definitely making it easier for young lesbians, especially those with high cheekbones, to come out. Does she understand that what she's doing has political significance?

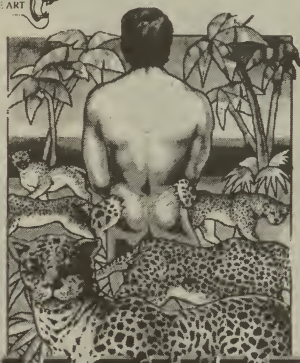
"Yeah," Uma agrees. "Well, you

do realize that when you go to do something, and people say to you, 'You shouldn't do that,' and you go, 'Really? Why not? Oh, that's a good reason. That's exactly why I will do it. Thank you so much for cementing my decision.'

"So these things are very obvious. There are many actors who wouldn't play a homosexual part, and there are many actresses who wouldn't want to play a lesbian part. I needn't say any more."

And who am I to argue? ▼

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Lotfi Mansouri

◀ Arts cover

For another, as he said during this interview: "You and I think alike about opera. We love it passionately, and we always expect, when the curtain goes up, that it will be wonderful."

Implicit is his understanding that I have a right to get mad when it is not wonderful. He does, too, though that is not well-known. "When the performance is bad, I'll know it in the first ten minutes. C'mon, you think I need critics to tell me when something is not working? I'm the first to know, and I do try to learn from my mistakes. As I have said many times: 'Ladies and gentlemen, believe me, I do not plan my failures.'"

Stephanie von Buchau: When you first came to SFO as a stage director in 1963, did you think this was one of the top half-dozen opera companies in the world?

Lotfi Mansouri: Absolutely, because of the unbelievable repertoire Mr. Adler was doing. In those days we performed as many as 14 different operas, two or three performances each. Long before I knew I was coming here as GD, I said that SFO was my favorite opera company.

Thirty-eight years later, is it still one of the top six?

I like to think it is, but it has to struggle to stay there. Look at this statistic: In 1960, there was only one professional-opera company in California: SFO. We took productions to San Diego, Los Angeles, Berkeley, Sacramento. In 2001, there are 22 professional opera companies. In the old days, it was nothing to hire a major star and have them stay here for three months. But now, with Seattle, Chicago, San Diego, Houston all competing, we have to work harder to maintain SFO in top position.

What about star singers? One of the complaints I hear constantly is that you don't have "the stars" the way Mr. Adler did.

It used to be "stars" and everybody else. Now things are closer together, but if you ask our subscribers, there are only two stars... Pavarotti and Domingo...

Exactly. The audience pays the bills, but sometimes they are just ignorant. It's all that PR and hype they listen to. The stadium concerts, the Three Tenors, the CDs, so they think that is what they want to hear. I just went to Pavarotti's *Aida* at the Met, and it was painful. I don't know why this guy doesn't stop. He doesn't need the money, but he is destroying his own legend.

When I think of stars today, I think of Renée Fleming, Olga Borodina, Dmitri Hvorostovsky, Carol Vaness. These are wonderful artists. You heard what Olga did in *Tsar's Bride* last fall? She is simply unbelievable, a major, major star.

Aside from the stars, what about repertory? What did you want to do that you couldn't, and why not?

A lot. More Russian works. For instance, *Sadko*, just too expensive and complicated, and *Coq d'or*, which you'll see soon. I wanted to do *Die Tote Stadt* with Renée and computer graphics. I wanted to do Montemezzi's *The Love for Three Kings*, which hasn't been seen here since Dorothy Kirsten did it.

But, Lotfi, it's a dreadful piece!

No, no, it's fun. It's no more dreadful than some of the junk that keeps subscribers happy.

Explain to me something about programming that I don't under-

stand. In 1994, SFO had a fantastic season of unusual operas:

Hérodiade, *Fiery Angel*, *The Dangerous Liaisons*, Rossini's *Otello*, *Mefistofele*, most of which sold, by your own accounting, better than the *Trovatore*s and the *Lucias*.

Why did you stop? Why did you retrench the rep the following season?

It's a balancing act. The board gets very nervous. It's like walking on a ledge. We've done plenty of new and interesting work since. And we've brought great conductors here.

Let us pass on that and ask about stage directors. We've had the whole gamut from Peter Sellars to Andrei Serban to John Copley. You try it all. Some of it works, and some doesn't. But when Serban literally rewrites the ending of *Puritani*, why do you put up with it?

My take on it is that I am also a stage director, and I am uncomfortable asking another director to change something. They think I'm doing it because I assume I can direct it better. If I make a suggestion to John Copley, for instance, he says, "Well, my dear, why don't you just direct it yourself," dripping sarcasm. Which I resent because he is taking away my prerogative as



Lotfi Mansouri directing 1979's *La Gioconda*

general director by implying that it is a stage director's ego thing.

But maybe your feelings are not as important as the composer? Maybe you just have to let people hate you to keep Bellini or Verdi from being trashed?

But I do intervene. Our last *Dutchman* was a disaster dramatically. Jimmy Morris wanted to walk out; he was being asked to do things that were impossible. So I called in the director and mildly suggested that we might have a problem, and he gives me a

half-hour lecture on the metaphysics of myths. Now I have this line that I sometimes use with these French and German intellectuals: "You must understand that here in the Far West, we are not as sophisticated as you. So if I have to choose between the metaphysics of myth and James Morris, I choose Mr. Morris."

Now that you are leaving, what will you do?

Nothing, I hope. As an Iranian, I firmly believe "what will be, will be," so I try not to plan anything.

I'll probably do some work with young singers. I try to stimulate individuality in young artists, because one of the dangers with Americans is that they are so proficient that they become glossy and rigid. In the old days, you turned on the Met and after two notes, you knew who was singing. Now you can't tell. They all sound alike. I preach to youngsters: Don't read critics, don't listen to CDs. Sing with your own voice, your own sensibility. Be an individual. Why is Maria Callas more important now than ever? Because she was an individual. So were Joan [Sutherland], Gwyneth [Jones], Leonie [Rysanek], Pilar [Lorengar].

You just named all of my favorite singers.

I told you we heard opera alike. I'm also going to write a book. Not about what I ate or who I met or about opera for opera groupies. I'm selfish enough to want to write something that has a sociological and historical background. I want to write about opera on a larger canvas. I've been doing this for nearly half a century. When I leave SFO, I'll be 72. And one of the things I've learned is how to make an exit. You don't want to hang around until people say, "My God, is he still here?" ▼

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Racial injustice and beyond

'Master Harold' holds up 20 years later

by Richard Dodds

It's easy to think of "Master Harold" ... and the boys as a play about apartheid, and, with apartheid's official dismemberment in South Africa, that Athol Fugard's 1982 play has somehow lost its potency. Neither of these notions is true.

Fugard, a white native of South Africa, spent much of his playwrighting career dealing with the ramifications of apartheid, but the stakes in "Master Harold" are much broader than the institutional racism of one country. The redemption of a soul, Fugard seems to be saying, is stronger than any transient legislation.

ACT's current production at the Geary Theatre is a finely tuned rendering of Fugard's play, one that finds the heart of the situation while building to a climax of almost unbearable intensity. It is grounded in three exquisite performances and a masterful job of direction by Laird Williamson.

"Master Harold" is the most autobiographical of Fugard's plays, taking us back to his youth in Port Elizabeth, where his family ran a tea room. The play begins with 17-year-old Hally warmly reminiscing with two long-time black employees about the adventures they have shared. Harold fashions himself as something of a mentor and tutor to Sam, the more dynamic of the two men, but it turns out that the relationship is really the reverse.

Harold's unsettled relationship with his unseen father, a crude racist with a crippled leg and a thirst for alcohol, boils over on this rainy day in the tea room. In frustration, Harold lashes out at Sam, his surrogate father, using the racial trump card to



Steven Anthony Jones and Jonathan Sanders in "Master Harold"

score an ugly victory. The play ends on a note of very tentative hope.

As Sam, Steven Anthony Jones provides the centerpiece performance, driving the character with heartfelt warmth, dignity, and passion. Jonathan Sanders, who, at 17, is the same age as Harold, holds his own on the Geary stage with an emotionally exposed performance. Gregory Wallace provides Willie with a sweet countenance that creates the third point in this inequilateral triangle.

"Master Harold" ... and the

boys doesn't have the cache of a hot new play dealing with a story ripped from today's headlines. But at 20 years old, this work proves itself greater than the political situations that once made it seem part of a cause. This may be a story that begins in black and white, but that's not where it finishes. ▼

"Master Harold" ... and the boys will run through June 3 at the Geary Theatre. Tickets are \$15-\$61. Call 749-2228.

James Ivory

◀ page 28

squeezing some eyedrops onto his orbs. "So I think you would have to say he was certainly gay, but not in any way as somebody who could ever realize those feelings."

"Here's an interesting thing. I was going through a bunch of my stuff the other day, and I found a very interesting article that had been written for *The Advocate* way back in either the late '70s or the early '80s. It was about Henry James' feelings for his own brother, William, and how that relationship was probably of all relationships in James' life the strongest and most compelling. No one was ever suggesting there was any sort of unsavory thing between them. But just that the greatest relationship of his life was his relationship with his brother. I thought that was pretty interesting. I've never seen any report on it since."

War and peace

Having gotten the Jamesian questions out of the way, I marched into Ivory's past, noting a site on the Internet focusing on gay people who served in the military. There under the title, "17 Famous Bisexual or Gay Men who Served in the Army," Gore Vidal and Ivory were listed.

"There must be so many other famous people," Ivory modestly argued.

Getting the point, I noted that Ivory, besides being an internationally acclaimed director, was also sort of an icon to the gay community: he was openly gay, in the midst of a long-lasting creative/love relationship, and the helmer of *Maurice*, which has unshackled so many people, making

their coming out easier. The film has been such a comfort to hordes of gays ever since its initial release.

"Well, *Maurice* really is a lovely film, I think," a pleased Ivory proffered. "I saw it the other day again. I know it meant a lot to so many, many people. We expected with that film that there would be a lot of criticism of it, that it would be attacked. But we were wrong, because I think it came at just the time when people dared not to attack, because it was a time in which so many people were dying from AIDS. AIDS was obviously this tremendous tragedy within the gay community, and I think the people who might have attacked the film did not attack it because of that."

With the success of *Maurice*, more money was freed for many other films to deal with gay subject matter.

"Well, you know, I've hardly seen any of those. The only out-and-out — that's not the word I want to use — the only unabashedly gay film I've seen recently which I really thought was a good work of art and a good movie was *Happy Together*."

"As for the rest, I can't judge because I haven't seen enough of these films. But I feel if anything that they've not really been seriously made yet, these kind of films. They haven't gone far enough. I'm not sure if it's possibly the audience rejection of it. Or it's not carried far enough. Or there's too much toying around or something."

Then, after admitting he had not read Vito Russo's *The Celluloid Closet*, he shook my hand, tidied himself up, and elevated downstairs to lunch with his lover Ismail, who was patiently awaiting him. ▼

THEATRE

The eye of the hurricane

Director, choreographer Susan Stroman prepares 'Contact' for SF run

by Richard Dodds

Susan Stroman has three shows running on Broadway, and Nos. 4 and 5 are on their way. In the meantime, the director and choreographer is in San Francisco preparing a new company of *Contact* that is launching a national tour from the Curran Theatre. That one of the other of those three shows is *The Producers*, the hottest ticket Broadway has seen in years, only adds to the whirlwind surrounding Stroman.

But in the middle of a grueling tech week at the Curran, Stroman was right on time for an interview and seemed breezily calm about her daunting schedule and her elevation to sainthood on Broadway.

"I've never been this busy, so it

dance club." "I was at this club, and in this sea of dark clothing that all New Yorkers wear, a girl in a yellow dress appeared," she said. "As I watched this girl, I thought to myself, this girl is going to change some man's life tonight."

Blank check

That image was still fresh in her mind when Lincoln Center offered her a creative blank check, and with writer John Weidman, she developed the story of a suicidal young businessman who finds his way to a club, where an alluring woman in a yellow dress leads him to redemption.

"Did You Move?" the other major component of *Contact*, is set in a fashionable restaurant in the 1950s where a woebegone wife, constantly berated by her

homal, created for the Royal National Theatre, will open on Broadway in March.

Stroman has said that she immersed herself in work after her husband, director Mike Ockrent, died of leukemia just over two years ago. Is she ready to pull back? "Not yet," she said softly. "Not yet. I'm sure that will come, and it will come naturally."

Another happy distraction will be the Tony Awards on June 3, which should add a couple more

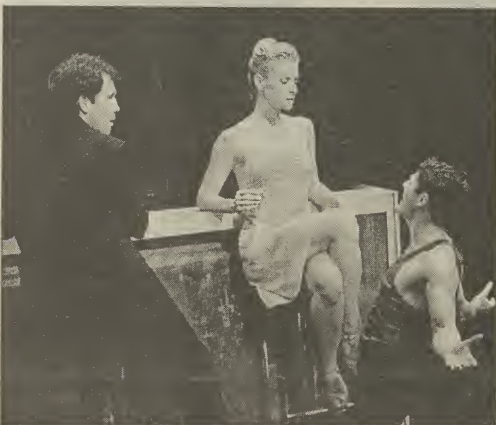
Tony Awards to a collection started with her work on *Crazy for You* and *Show Boat*. She said she will be in "frock shock" that day.

"I expected people to like *The Producers*, because it makes people laugh," she said, "but it has actually affected the entire Manhattan community, and I can't ever remember experiencing that."

Stroman, who dreamed as a girl of being a choreographer as she sat under the piano while her father played, has gone far beyond

what she could have imagined back in Wilmington, Del. "When I stand in the back of an audience and see them moved by something I've done, it gives me a thrill," Stroman said. "I do have to pinch myself, because that's a lot of people to move every night." ▼

Contact will run at the Curran Theatre through June 24. Tickets are \$37-\$80. Call 551-2000.



Stroman's *Contact*: inspired by an alluring woman in a yellow dress.

is a bit tricky," she said. "But I also know it's one of those times I need to relish, because it's not always going to be like this."

With *The Producers*, she helped Mel Brooks put his vision on stage. And with her other current Broadway show, the revival of *The Music Man*, she was working within the constraints of an existing script. But *Contact* is her baby from start to finish, and she is still amazed that it has become a full-scale hit Broadway musical.

In fact, Stroman didn't even think of it as a musical while she was creating it in a workshop subsidized by Lincoln Center. When it opened in the smaller of Lincoln Center Theatre's two spaces, she was still calling it a "dance play." But after it moved into the larger theater and became eligible for Tony Awards (which it won), it needed to be redefined.

"After I created it, all of a sudden I was being forced into a category, so the critics and the Tony committee decided we were a musical," she said. "But what was great about creating *Contact* is that I didn't have to think about categories during the process. I was down there in the basement at Lincoln Center with a bunch of dancers creating a new form for myself."

Using existing recordings of pop tunes and classical pieces, the three segments of *Contact* tell their stories through some dialogue, a lot of dance, and no singing. "For me, the most important thing in choreography is the story," Stroman said, "and this is another way to tell it."

The centerpiece of the production is the segment also titled "Contact," and it was inspired by Stroman's visit to a hip New York

club. "I was at this club, and in this sea of dark clothing that all New Yorkers wear, a girl in a yellow dress appeared," she said. "As I watched this girl, I thought to myself, this girl is going to change some man's life tonight."

"I think audiences have embraced the show because the characters are accessible," Stroman said. "In many musicals of the last 10 years, what's been lacking is characters that people can actually relate to. Maybe they can imagine themselves as the character who can't reach out and ask someone to dance, or metaphorically, to take a chance in unfamiliar territory. Or maybe they imagine themselves in an abusive relationship where dance represents freedom. And if they're lucky enough, I suppose they imagine themselves as the girl in the yellow dress."

The original New York cast helped develop the show during workshops, and they now have the aura of a dream cast. Stroman claims she has assembled a second dream cast for the touring production.

"Because I was able to be with them in rehearsal everyday, it's not really just a recreation," Stroman said. "It's another version of *Contact* that they have now made their own. Because a lot of *Contact* is about the talent of the people who are in it, I was able to make it feel almost like their own creations."

Next up for Stroman is a musical version of the Zola novel *Therese Raquin* that will be called *Thou Shalt Not*. Set to New Orleans in 1946, and with a score by Harry Connick, the musical will open at Lincoln Center in October. And after long delay, her acclaimed production of *Oklahoma!*

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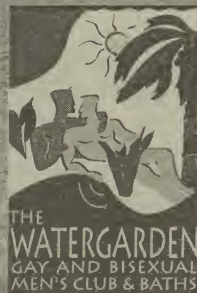
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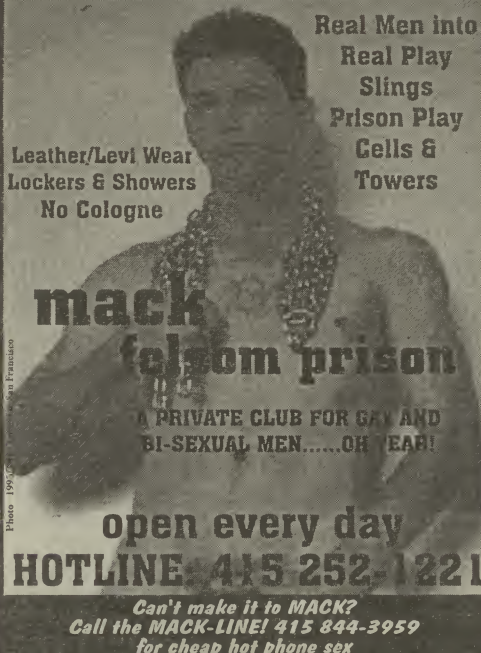
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Calm before the storm

by Mister Marcus

By this time next week, some 60-plus leathermen will meet in Chicago for the weekend long International Mr. Leather 2001 competition, now in its twenty-third year. Almost all the bar, city, regional, state and country contests are completed. The judges have been interacting by email or in person with various candidates, and emcees Joe Gallagher and Tom Stice have been preparing themselves for the show.

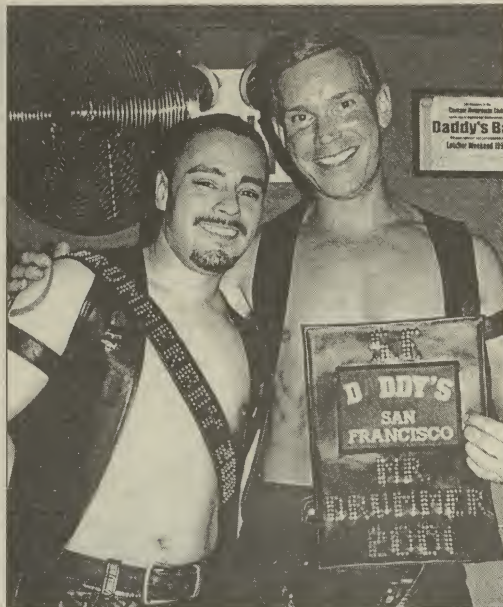
The IML, Inc. staff and an army of volunteers are ready for the task at hand, and all of Chicago's bars and restaurants are ready for the onslaught.

By no means is IML the only event taking place in Chicago. It's also the Great Lakes Bears weekend, and who can tell what obscure group will be conventioning there and be shocked at the huge leather presence?

Not the most important, but still on everyone's mind, is whether the Palmer House Hotel — one of Chicago's most elegant — will be ready for the leather nation. It's a sure thing that some of the "shenanigans" that took place at the Congress will not be in evidence at the new host hotel. But knowing the ingenuity of the leather tribe, where there's a will there is a way!

By the way, due to cancellations, a few rooms are still available.

Across the nation, farewell and good luck parties are being held for quite a few of the contestants. In San Francisco, the "official" party for Mr. SF Leather Houston Davenport takes place at



San Francisco Drummer Boy 2001 Jack Garcia, left, posed with Mr. SF Drummer 2001 James Holloway on May 2. Both will advance to the Northern California Drummer competition on July 28.



Bazaar

the Powerhouse tomorrow night, Friday May 18, at 2100 hours. Former Mr. SF Leather winners will host the "Shower Party," once again including Lance Gear, Werner Tillinger, Barry Rogers, Gary Virginia, Lenny Broberg, Ray Tilton and the first-ever IML, David Kloss.

On Sunday, May 20, Daddy's Bar is hosting a Bay Area IML Kick-Off party for all

the Bay Area contestants, from 1600-2000, with a beer bust, raffle, entertainment and an auction.

Yes, the world's biggest leather competition is taking place in just one week. See you there?

Grand AEF dinner

You've got to hand it to the AIDS Emergency Fund board of directors and their many volunteers. The annual awards banquet last Thursday, May 10 aboard the SS Hornblower was a virtual float-

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, May 17

All 12 bare chest calendar winners for the 2002 calendar will compete for the cover spot tonight at 2100 at the Powerhouse. The runner-up will grace the back cover. Don't miss this one!

Friday, May 18

The Boston Ramrod is the scene of the first-ever Ms. Leather Boston contest. The winner has the option of advancing either to the IMLs title or the new Ms. World Leather title.

SF Exiles 5th annual "Novices" night at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930. Program at 2000 until 2300.

"Shower Power" send-off party for Houston Davenport, Mr. SF Leather 2001, begins at 2100, with many former Mr. SF Leathers hosting. You know what those shower parties are like!

Saturday, May 19

Bears of SF beer/soda bust at the Lone Star for only \$7 with raffle tickets and hot dogs to benefit COLAGE, from 1500-1900.

"Leather Elegance" with a feast and entertainment by the Alameda Co. Leather Corps at the Rainbow Room in Hayward. Tickets are \$20 advance.

Boot & Bondage party (private) at the usual location. For invitation and location, call 364-1820 or email to mcheater@best.com.

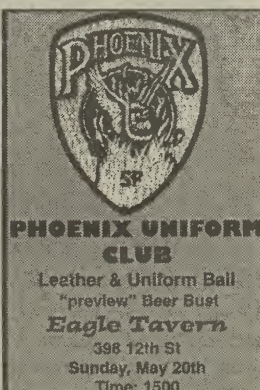
In Jacksonville, Florida, Mr. Sun Coast Leather, that cute Bruce Ross, hosts the gathering at the Fuel Coffee House at 2000. Bruce rocks!

Sunday, May 20

Phoenix Uniform Club hosts beer/soda bust at the Eagle from 1500-1800, with food and a "Best Boot Look" contest for \$8. Winner gets a new pair of Dehner Boots. Hubba-Hubba. Don't miss this one either!

Constantines MC beer bust at the Lone Star, 1600-2000, for \$7. No frills is how they're billing it. You provide the thrills.

IML Kick-Off party for all Bay Area contestants for IML at Daddy's, from 1600-1800. A beer bust/auction, entertainment. The usual. Fun!



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POLKSTRASSE

Lips gets lost

by Sweet Lips

Sometimes you just have to get out of Dodge and go get lost somewhere. Yours Truly flew out of town like a bat from Hell last week, traveling up to Portland with Steve Rasher for Steve Suss' 62nd birthday bash. Lips has never seen so many old friends in one place before, and we all looked mahvelous — for senior citizens! Parties at the Embers/Avenue can sure be fun.

Memorial Day weekend will bring friends from all over. Mame and a group are coming down

from Portland. The Club Rendez-Vous will be having a fundraising party for the Club Hitmen softball team on Sunday, May 20 from 2-8 p.m. Expect a buffet, prizes, and a 50/50 raffle.

Then at 7 p.m., stay for the male strip show with the Men of Exotica, hunky guys with a hunka hunka burnin' love.

Yes, Marlow is still at Uncle Bert's Bar, but only on Saturday and Sunday mornings. So skip the

cartoons, and come on in for your Vitamins V & G (vodka & gin).

Kimo's new Penthouse Room has been soundproofed for the hot, hot bands they have playing there now. Tyler has certainly done a great job with the place, and it rocks with the younger drinking crowd.

Remember, Gay Pride Week is just around the corner, so make your plans early for the Parade and the festivities. ▼

Cocktail Hour

Laramie Project

◀ Arts cover

tonic Theater Project created the collaborative production. "Before the show started, the audience was so afraid and the actors were so afraid. It had been a year of two communities coming together, and now we were going to see the fruit of that relationship. As soon as it began, I saw how theater could talk to a community about this idea of an 'us.' It was magical."

The original production, featuring many of the same performers who conducted the 200 interviews with Laramie residents, begins performances this week at Berkeley Rep. It won't necessarily be the entire original cast, because some of those performers are back in Laramie for a film adaptation that will eventually be shown on HBO.

"The play has already been done in Florida and Philadelphia and Australia and Japan by other companies, so the machine works," Kaufman said. "It just works in a different way. There is a way in which it becomes more of a play, and this is more of an event."

This is a return to San Francisco for Kaufman and his company, who staged their acclaimed production of *Gross Indecencies: The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde* at Theatre on the Square in 1997. That, as with *The Laramie Project*, was inspired by Kaufman's fascination with what he calls "watershed moments."

"When I read the Oscar Wilde transcripts," Kaufman said, "I remember feeling that in those pages, Victorian men and women were telling us a generation later how they felt not only about homosexuality, but about religion and the monarchy, and class, and all of those things. It is an event so powerful that it forces people to speak, and if one listens, one is able to hear ideas that permeate entire cultures."

Within two weeks of Shepard's murder, Kaufman began to sense a watershed moment in the making. "It was the first time that we, as a nation, were looking at an



Playwright Moisés Kaufman

event of this nature, a crime against a gay man, and saying this is wrong," he said. "I thought it would be fascinating to listen to what this horrible crime was bringing to the surface."

Networking in Wyo.

Kaufman and company headed to Laramie not really knowing what the results of the first of what became six visits would be. They began by making contact with the head of the university theater department, and he suggested others they should talk to. "We would hardly ever just walk up to someone and start a conversation," he said. "Mostly people would refer us to someone else. The way we became part of the community made us very different to them than how the media worked."

But many folks were still suspicious. "The one thing that saved us is that we were neophytes at conducting interviews, and I think we were much more terrified of being there than they were of us. I think our ignorance served us well."

The group did not try to interview Shepard's parents or the murderers, though some of their words from public statements are included. "Very early on," Kaufman said, "I made the decision that this was going to be about the town of Laramie. This wasn't going to be the Matthew Shepard murder-case play."

Because of that, the results are

not the grim document that some theatergoers fear. "People have said they were afraid of seeing it because they thought it might brutalize them," Kaufman said. "But they come out saying it's an awe-inspiring thing, and full of humor because people are full of contradictions, and contradictions are the source of all humor. It's about the life of a town, and that has room to be inspiring and depressing and funny and horrible."

The play, Kaufman stressed, is not a documentary. "I think the difference between us and news reporters is that a reporter removes himself or herself from the story, but in *The Laramie Project*, we are characters in the play as well as the people we interviewed. It's a very personal project, one that pushes the boundaries of what each person in a theater company is asked to do."

When Kaufman was in San Francisco in 1997 with *Gross Indecencies*, he was still in awe of the success that had only arrived a few months before. *The Laramie Project* has cemented his stature as a theatrical star, but even as he enjoys the opportunities to have a dialogue with, say, a Tony Kushner or a Mike Nichols, he strives to stay grounded.

"As long as you keep the focus on the work," he said, "then it has a very anchoring effect. It's very easy to get swallowed up in the foolishness of it all. Besides, whenever my head gets anywhere other than straight, Jeff smacks it back into position."

Jeff is Jeff LaHoste, his partner of 13 years and the managing director of the Tectonic Theater Project. They met shortly after Kaufman moved to New York from his native Venezuela.

"I'm blessed to have an amazing life partner," Kaufman said. "I think the best part of all that's happened has honestly been that." ▼

The Laramie Project will run through July 8 in Berkeley Rep's new Roda Theatre. Tickets are \$40.50-\$51. Call (888) 4BR-TTIX.

van, "Sheba," the Phoenix Uniform Club, Pride Parade Committee and Stompers Boots, to mention only a few. It was another one of those leather pride nights that could only happen in San Francisco. Hats off to Glennon Sutter, the VP of the AEF. What a joyous night!

Goings-on elsewhere

The National Leather Association announced last week that the annual Living in Leather Weekend for 2001 has been canceled, and the LIL weekend will take place in July 2002. Sorry to hear that.

In Washington, D.C. last weekend, bears in the capitol geared up for International Bear Rendezvous

2002 and staged their marathon DC Bear and DC Cub to compete here next February. No photos were available at my deadline, but the new Mr. DC Bear is Pat Thorne of Falls Church, Virginia and the DC Bear Cub is Steve Chase of Clinton, Maryland. Good luck at the next level guys!

There's more going on, but deadlines being what they are, not all of it is here this week. But if you click on www.leatherpage.com, you can read what is going on in other cities by columnists there. In the meantime, keep living, keep laughing and keep loving. Just do it in leather! See you next week! ▼

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Wed. May 23rd LEATHER BUDDIES

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

ing leather party. The faithful plunked down \$150 to cruise the bay and enjoy a sumptuous dinner plus entertainment by Jo Carol and Irene Soderberg. Several people were recognized for their hard work for the AEF.

Lenny Broberg emceed the event for two full decks of celebrants that applauded the efforts of Scott Wiseman, Paul Hill, Pat Christen, Ken Turner, Donna Sachet, Mary Miller-Marshall and Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt. Also recognized: Bob Brunson, T.J. Ist-

OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Mardon

Complications

The many faces of gender never cease to amaze me. Take last week at the opening of "TRANS-Art 2001" at the GLBT Historical Society. The room swarmed with gender variants, all looking fabulously chic, aglow with pride at the mind-boggling display of transgressive art, which included graphic depictions of much-discussed but rarely seen post-op genitalia. Curator **Jordy Jones** was the center of attention, having orchestrated the display. Board member **Gerard Koskovich** introduced him, commending him on his contributions to the transgender community, the crème de la crème of which were on hand to admire Jones' and others' handiwork.

In writing about Jones in issue 18 a couple of weeks ago, I mistakenly referred to him by a term I'd plucked off the Web, one apparently used mainly by Australian trannies, "gynander," meaning roughly "a woman with male characteristics." Much to my chagrin, when I approached Jones at the reception to say what a terrific job he'd done, the first thing he said was that the strange term I'd used to describe him sure wasn't going to get him any dates! He laughed when he said it, but I about died.

Jones went on to greet gallery goers and delivered eloquent remarks worthy of a dignitary of his stature. His next cultural offering is coming up this Sunday, May 20, 2-4 p.m. at the GLBT Historical Society (973 Market St., suite 400), a roundtable discussion titled "Complications: Transgender Community and Culture in the SF Bay Area."

As for Koskovich, who has long been a major organizing force in this town, he was very much on hand at another event involving the GLBT Historical Society, "Lightbox," a benefit for the organization held in the Forum at Yerba Buena Center last Friday, May 11. That gala queer-art auction and concert, featuring the elegant **Kronos Quartet**, brought out the big-money donors as well as us little folk to partake of the finest queer culture has to offer. "Viva Variety" showman **Steve Murray** emceed the production, while Koskovich and GLBT Historical Society Executive Director **Susan Stryker** took turns urging bids on items by leading queer artists, and thanking the artists for their generous donations (and, I might add, for luring so many cute art fags to one central location). Stryker indicated big changes are ahead for the Historical Society. Could a permanent location be in the cards?

Speaking of boys (weren't we?), they're suffering. They're on the verge of nervous breakdowns. Which boys? All boys, apparently, as documented in **Boys Will Be Men**, a film exploring the terrors and triumphs of growing up male in America. What's needed is more caring and compassion. You can show yours by showing up at the screening on Wednesday May 23 at 7 p.m. at **Herbst Theatre**, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tickets are \$10 from City Box Office, 392-4400. For details, call (510) 558-8013. ▼



Joey Rich and Zach Hummell horse around in Paul Rudnick's *The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told* at New Conservatory Theatre Center. See Saturday.

Fri

Berkeley Repertory Theatre

West Coast premiere: "The Laramie Project," Moisés Kauffman's provocative examination of a town coping with tragedy and notoriety in the wake of the murder of gay student Matthew Shepard. After Shepard was murdered in Laramie, Wyoming in 1998, Kauffman and members of the Tectonic Theater Project visited the town several times to conduct interviews with the locals. These interviews, along with court records and personal journals, form the basis for this play. \$15.99-\$51. 8pm. Thru July 8. 2015 Addison St., Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 647-2949; www.berkeleyrep.org

Studio @ Rhino

The Custom Made Theatre Company presents "The Memorandum," a corporate comedy written by Václav Havel. Directed by Brian I. Katz. \$13-\$15. 8:30pm (Sun. 7:30pm). May 18-20, 20-27, & May 30-June 3. The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Tix: 861-5079.

Jon Sims Center for the Arts

AlRspace artist in residence Duy Nguyen presents a workshop production of his multimedia play "Men in Love." The piece draws on interviews conducted with gay Asian and Asian American men living in SF. It speaks candidly of sex, love, innocence, community and identity with a blend of matter-of-factness and irony. \$5-\$10 sliding (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Info: 554-0402.

Rose Street House of Music, Berkeley

Suburban folkster Sonia (of Disappear Fear), winner of the 2000 GLAMA award for Best Acoustic Album, entertains with songs from her latest CD, "Me Too." Featuring country ballads, a funky groove song, a Latin salsa number, and a duet with her 5-year-old nephew, Dylan. Two shows (8pm & 10pm). 1839 rose St., Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 594-4000; www.rosestreetmusic.com

The Presidio

The B-52's and Susan Tedeschi headline at "Wild Fête," a fundraiser for the World Wildlife Fund. The party band that got its start in Athens, Georgia in 1976 will be headlining at Gay Pride, but here's your chance to get up close and personal with them and help save critters. \$100 for ages 30 and under; \$150 for those over the hill. 9:30pm-12:30am. The Parachute Shop (west end of Crissy Field). Tix: (888) 993-1100; email wildfete@wwf.us.org

Yerba Buena Center

Opening party: "Hip-Hop Nation," featuring performances, visual art, film screenings, and a colorful mix of guests. Featuring hip-hop radio DJ Davey D, slam poet Aya de León, synchronized dancers Medea Sirkas, solo artist Mystic, Planet Asia and Zion I. \$12. 8-11pm. 701 Mission St. (at Third St.). Info: 978-ARTS; www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

The Rawhide

Kolors Entertainment presents the inaugural bash of "Kolors," a dance party featuring house and trance music by DJs Jerry Bonham (Spun-dae), Kramer (Dimensions, Setflow), DJ Seven (aka Sean Evans), Mark Ventre, Tad Ro, and Scott Carrelle. With massages, fire dancers, and state-of-the-art lighting and projections. After the bar stops serving cocktails at 2am, snow cones and juices will be offered. Doors open at 9pm, close at 4am. Located at 280 7th St. (at Folsom). Info: John at 244-9998; www.kolorspartys.com

Sat

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

QComedy.com presents a comedy benefit for the "Campaign for Equality," the political action committee of the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club. Featuring Karen Ripley, Julia Jackson, Pippi Lovestocking, Darrick Richardson, and Nick Leonard. Entr'acte entertain-

ment by the East Bay Gay Men's Chorus. A portion of proceeds will benefit the Int'l Lesbian Gay Assn. Scholarship Fund for the 2001 ILGA Summit in Oakland. \$15 adv.; \$20 door. 8pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd. (at Thornhill), Oakland. Tix: (510) 466-5050.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night: "The Most Fabulous Story Ever Told," by Paul Rudnick, directed by George McGuire. A seriously silly, sexy farce about original sin, irreverence, mysterious forces, and infidelity, set at the time of creation and at a Christmas party in present-day Manhattan. \$35 opening night; \$15-\$25 other nights. 8pm. Thru July 14. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix: 861-8972.

Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

"A Gay Evening in May," a night of variety-show style entertainment and DJ dancing. Silent auction and raffle. Dance party with DJs Georgia and AD. Proceeds benefit Santa Cruz AIDS Project and Walnut Ave. Women's Center. \$15 gen'l admission (\$8 student/senior; \$25 orchestra).



Pippi Lovestocking joins other queer comics in a "Campaign for Equality" at Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland. See Saturday.

8pm showtime; 10:30pm dance party. 307 Church St., Santa Cruz. Tix: (831) 420-5260. Start the night with dinner at participating restaurants (from 5pm on): Azur (1001 Center St.), Clouds (110 Church St.), Gabriella's Cafe (910 Cedar St.), or Pearl Alley Bistro (110 Pearl Alley).

San Jose Center for the Performing Arts

"Victor/Victoria" comes to the stage with Jennifer Allen starring as Victoria (and Victor) and Lee Roy reams as her mentor, Toddy. With Thom Sesma as American mobster King Marchan, Riette Burdick as the spurned mistress, and Tom Sardinia as the bodyguard. Directed by Seth Reines. This frothy gender-bending extravaganza is set in 1930s Paris, where struggling chanteuse Victoria becomes the toast of Paris by impersonating a drag queen with the help of Toddy, an aging gay emcee. \$40-\$60 (group discounts available). 8pm (2pm & 7pm Sun.). Thru June 3. 255 Almaden Blvd., San Jose. Tix/info: (888) 455-SHOW; www.amtsj.org

Shotwell Studios

"The Bird Club: A Letter to Sandra Bernhard," a one-human show written and performed by Darren Blaney. In this autobiographical monologue, Blaney chronicles his bizarre childhood growing up gay and Catholic in a dysfunctional but entertaining New England home. \$5-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Also Sun., May 20. 3252A 19th St. (btwn Shotwell & S. Van Ness), Studio B. Tix/info: 215-8745.

"Havdalah Under the Stars," Noe Valley

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav organizes this special social event for Jewish GLBT singles to mix and mingle, held at a private home in Noe Valley. The end of the Shabbath will be marked with a short Havdalah service. Meet other "nice" Jewish boys and girls. \$10. 6:30-8pm. For location and further details, phone Dahlia Gross at 575-4961 or email cszdahlia@yahoo.com.

Il Teatro 450

Opening night: Women in Time (WIT) Productions presents *The Misanthrope* by Molière (translated by Richard Wilbur). Set in the glamorous 1950s Hollywood movie industry, an idealistic Alceste seems out of place, held captive by his love for the rising star Célimène, but constantly jealous of her many fans. Can these star-crossed lovers find happiness? Directed by Sacha Reich. \$20 (\$17 students/seniors). 449 Powell

St. (near Sutter). Tix/info: 433-1172; www.womenintime.com

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Lesbians in the Visual Arts (LVA) presents "Recognition," a full-day conference where artists from all backgrounds, ages and levels of expertise will explore topics ranging from the practical to the aesthetic. 9:30am registration. 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Info/pre-registration: 788-6118.

848 Community Space

"Perverts Put Out!" Local erotica writers read and perform their work. Featuring Bill Brent, editor of the bisexual zine *Black Sheets*, plus ferret (aka Steve Omid), Thomas Roche, M. Christian, Charles Anders, Carol Queen, and Simon Sheppard. \$12-\$20 (NOTAFLOF). 8pm. 848 Divisadero St. Reservations: 431-0171. Info: blackbooks.com

Jezebel's Joint

"The 2nd Annual SF Bohemian Arts Ball," created and hosted by Dee Dee Russell of the Channel 29 public-access TV show "Dee Dee TV" (airing Wednesdays at 9pm). With special guests Scarlot Harlot and Carol Queen. Talents from the Latin, hip-hop, transgender, and rock 'n' roll communities. Co-hosted by Kitty Kastro of "Tranny Talk." Videos all night in the upstairs lounge. \$10. 8pm-2am. 510 Larkin St. (at Turk). Info: 345-9832; www.jezebeljoint.com

The Sheebien

The Underground SoMa Drama Association (USDA) dedicates a night of performance to the Green Party in appreciation for its activism. Featuring a series of original monologues written and performed by George McKibbens (his hip-hop sensibilities and slandering prose/poetry make him a sensation; he'll preview "Utilities," his one-man show to run at Exit Theater in June; it illustrates that for an affordable apartment, sometimes you have to put on a dress and dance with a killer); spoken-word artist luckydave (he'll relate his experiences living on the streets of SF); Charlie Getter (he'll reprise "Glitterman," the tale of a bungling serial killer); and Aundry Brandon (a preview of "Jeremiah's Paranoia" from the USDA's upcoming July production). \$15-\$25 sliding. 698 Minna St. Tix/info: SF Green Party, 701-7090.

Sun

SF Hiking Club

Join other outdoor lovers for a Black Diamond Mines hike and enjoy a picturesque, fun hike. It's a moderate 8-mile hike with a 1,500-ft. elevation gain. Meet 10:15am outside the North Berkeley BART Station. Club info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

SomaDigital

Opening reception: recent work by Paul Jermann, a collage artist who for 18 years was a graphic designer with an emphasis was on advertising for the film industry. His clients included Warner Bros., Walt Disney Pictures, Miramax, Paramount Pictures, and others. In the past three years Jermann has shifted his focus from illustration and graphic design to fine art, concentrating on collage. He studied fine art at the School of Applied Arts in Vienna, Austria, and completed his degree in fine arts from the California College of Arts and Crafts in Oakland. 2-6pm. 260 Clara St. (btwn 5th & 6th, Harrison & Folsom),



The B-52's, headliners at SF Gay Pride 2001, will play for the World Wildlife Fund at the Presidio. See Saturday.

Suite #1. Info: 896-6633;
www.pauljermann.com

Mon 21

Liquid

DJ Ruben Mancias spins deep house for the queers of the Mission. \$3. 10pm-2am. 21+w/D. 2925 16th St. Info: 431-8889.

N' Touch Dance Club

The boys get good 'n' nasty as the diva-beats crank till 2am, courtesy of DJ Lambchop. The party kicks off at 9pm. 1548 Polk St. Info: 441-8413.

The Stud

DJs David Boyle and Sean G spin out '70s hits, R&B, hip-hop and funk classics. Gay all around. 10pm-2am. 21+w/D. 399 9th St. (at Harrison). Info: 863-6623.

Tue 22

Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy

Gay Life presents "Do You Taboo?" A sexual health fair exploring sex myths and other gay misnomers. Celebrate your gayness — and Harvey

Milk's birthday — with the Gay Life staff, community "sexperts" and others curious about taboos. The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence will be on hand to cultivate a festive environment as gay and bisexual men discuss varied sexual practices. Learn a new sexual-health trick or share some of your own. Rotating workshops (approx. 15 minutes in length) include: "Erotic Energy," in which members of Body Electric discuss stretching, breathing and touching to awaken and sustain full-body erotic energy; "A Boy and His Toys," hosted by Mr. S Leathers, in which participants discuss and play with newfangled sex toys for the discriminating male; and "Ring of Pleasure" with butt-sex master Frank Strona, discussing the pleasures, pitfalls and possibilities of anal intercourse. Gay Life is a program of the SF AIDS Foundation. 7:30-9:30pm. 4235 19th St. (btwn Collingwood & Diamond). Registration: 788-LIFE (reservations suggested as space is limited).

Cafe Du Nord

The mysterious Veronica Klaus entertains with her smoky vocals and alluring stage presence. Klaus will be a main-stage performer at the upcoming Gay Pride Celebration. This is your chance to see her in an intimate setting. \$7. 9pm. 2170 Market St. Info: 861-5016.

Momi Toby's Revolution Cafe

The New Acoustic Movement presents singer/songwriters Garrin Benfield ("Living A Dream"), Erika Luckett (born in Mexico, raised in Brazil and Venezuela, played in the Paris subways as a teen, founded and toured with the world jazz ensemble, Wild Mango), and John Haley Walker. 8pm. 528 Laguna St. (at Fell). Info: 626-1508.

Wed 23

Ashkenaz, Berkeley

The SF World Music Festival presents the Shoko Hikage Ensemble of Japan and Tuvan blues with Paul Pena & Friends. \$12. 8pm. 1317 San Pablo Ave. (at Gilman), Berkeley. Tix/info: (800) 965-4827; ticketweb.com; sf-worldmusicfestival.org

Butter

Join other queers for a queer night at the "White Trash Bistro," where trashy drag queens abound. 8pm-2am. 354 11th St. (at Folsom). Bar info: 863-5964.

Thu 24

Aquarius Records

Opening reception: "12X12," drawings, paintings and dioramas by 14 Bay Area artists who draw inspiration in large part from music. Free. 7-9pm. 1055 Valencia St. Info: 647-2272.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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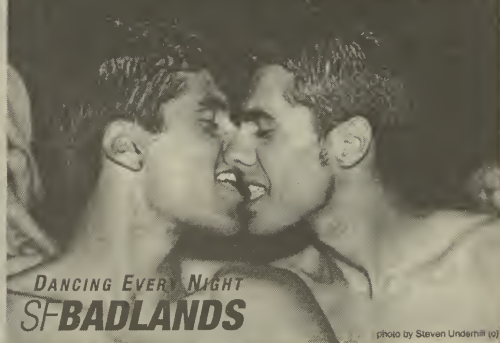
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Scarlot Harlot (left) and public-access TV diva Dee Dee Russell orchestrate the madness and merriment at "The Bohemian Arts Ball" at Jezebel's Joint. See Saturday.

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PARTING GLANCES

Lombard Office H&R Black Apr. 6
 Joining inside after you almost flipped your bike in the rain, we signed papers for tax women. Smiling, you said goodbye, leaving me fixated on your chin-stubbed face. ☎ 71181

Brandon From Scott Street—
 First Harvey's, then in our neighborhood. Been hoping to hear from you, so trying this! Dinner, show, or drink? Ron ☎ 71182

Gap Store—Powell St. Sat. Aft.
 Saturday afternoon, 3/31, you: dark hair, with friend. Me: with kids, short pants. Looked, looked back. In store and at register. Dinner? ☎ 71183

Easter Candy At Walgreens 4/14
 We exchanged several quick glances while shopping for Easter candy at Walgreens at Castro and 18th that afternoon. You: short brown hair, jeans. Can we meet? ☎ 71202

Thursday Night—Luna Piena 4-12
 You: African American eating with friend (African American). Me: short hair, saw you on the street, smiled, turned, smiled again. Dinner? ☎ 71203

Club Universe 4/21/01—
 To the guys that helped me in the coat check line around 3 or 4 in the morning when I fainted. Please call for "Thank you!" ☎ 71223

Glen Park Bart 4/26—
 7:30 pm. You, handsome 30s AM, standing across the street. Me: 40s GWM, short blond hair, crossing street with friend. You held my admiring gaze. Can we meet? ☎ 71248

Th 4/26 SFAF Dinner, Ft Mason
 Met in bathroom, talked about "20". You: beautiful Asian man at friend's table. Me: White man trying his tie. Coffee? Dinner? ☎ 71249

Sat 4/28, "Red Grill" 8'ish
 Saw you in the lounge, then dining room, me at corner table with 2 friends. Couldn't take my eyes off you. Would love to make you smile again. ☎ 71268

"Castro Community T-Shirt"
 Badlands Fri. 4/27, AM in white sleeveless t-shirt wanted to talk. Was it wishful thinking, or did you want to talk to me too? I'm what you've been wanting. ☎ 71269

5/6 Starbucks@ Church & Market
 11:30am, we were buying drinks, too shy to talk. You, cute Asian with silver ring on right hand. Me: White with yellow t-shirt, exchanged glances even after I left. Call. ☎ 71270

Jeremy, Sunday April 29—
 Sorry, I missed you at "Pasta Pomodoro". I was too shy to ask for your number. Give me a second chance? ☎ 71271

Ned! "Sundance Saloon"—May 6th
 Hello Ned, tried to build-up enough courage to ask you to dance but you left early. Very goodlooking, masculine, nice guy here. Would love to hear from you. ☎ 71272

'Jason M.' From 'Art C.'
 Sorry, I missed you but thanks for stopping by Weds. 4/25. You were cut off before you left your ph#. Please try again. Love to see you and catch-up. ☎ 71273

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

HIV+, Blacks, Latins, Puerto Ricans
 Wanted by HIV+, blond/blue, 5'10", 160lbs. versatile bottom, 44yrs. genuinely honest & loving, in good shape, no fat guys. You be similar. I live near Chico, I'm willing to travel, please call me. ☎ 71225

Chubby Bear Seeks Same*
 GWM, 38, 5'10", 250, brown eyes/hair/beard seeks same 30-45. N/S/ND. Likes! theatre, opera, quiet times, good food; quiet and shy. ☎ 71184

Lonely In South Bay!—
 Lean masculine WM 43 seeks another lean masculine guy to share experiences with and be close to. Not into gay scene. Enjoy the outdoors, music, films, picnics & affection. ☎ 71185

"I Want You The Right Way!!"
 GBM 50, top educated professional in need of GWM 50-60, bottom for dating, leading to a relationship with sexual healing. Let's dine, drink, smoke, converse and make love. Must be beefy, hot nips ++. ☎ 71186

"You, Me, Us!"
 Stable, upbeat GAM, 34, 5'6", HIV-, looking to meet/date similar A/W men, 30-40 in East Bay. Want someone who can be honest, compassionate, monogamous. Let's talk. ☎ 71187

Dorky Literate Jazzy Hipsters!
 Me: 35 Latino mutt, dark brn eyes/hair, tall/nanky, down. Wanted: gregarious, spontaneous, make-me-laugh, youngish guys who like to play, dance, camp, read. Sagittarian friendly. No frills. ☎ 71204

Romantic Bright Prof X N.Yorker
 Seeks prof, sane, cuddly guy for good times. I'm 6ft, 160lbs, healthy HIV+, passionate, irreverent, Jewish. You: under 50, employed, attractive, any race. ☎ 71205

Lonely? Looking For A Friend?
 Shy GWM, 57, 5'10", 165# in San Francisco looking for companionship with another man who may or may not have the same problem getting to know other people. ☎ 71206

Nice GHM 47 Open To Meet You
 Of you like to be sucked I'll be your Latin girlfriend in Santa Rosa love top man we can fuck in the river. Call mi. ☎ 71207

Affectionate Men Over 50
 WLM 45, 6' 160lbs. dk hr. ISO men 50+ for sensual times or poss LTR. Facial hair, husky, working class, left-wing politics A+. No gay scene, drugs, but smoking ok. ☎ 71208

Rugged Asian—
 Masculine, dominant, warm hearted, smooth, athletic Asian, 53, 5'8", 155 seeks clean shaven, lean or muscular, smooth WM for adventurous, companion or more. Enjoy working out, sports, hiking, films, arts and you? S 71224

"Looking For A Friend!"
 To spend quality time together, travel, talking, hug & kisses. I am Asian 65 5'9", 150lbs. Please be under 40, trim or muscular, caring & very good looking. Thanks. ☎ 71226

—Tops-R-Us!—
 Big-Dick Italian top likes the camaraderie of being with other top men. Need a buddy to "Hang", cruise, stroke, travel, etc? Age, race, looks not important. Masculine in-shape men only! ☎ 71227

Handsome Young Russian—
 Is looking for other cute and intelligent Russian or European boys in their 20's or 30's only. You won't be disappointed and I'm also very faithful. All calls are returned. ☎ 71228

Asian 4 Friendship Or More...
 Goodlooking GAM 30, 5'8", slim, masculine, HIV- with nice personality seeks similar goodlooking masculine GWM 45 or younger for dating, romance, LTR. ☎ 71229

"HIV+"
 Cocktail & bullshit free. 40, 6' 170lbs, br/bl, w/big fat cut one, looking for another. ☎ 71230

Mulatto Guy Intelligent*
 Educated, real good looking, seeks guys for a relationship for fun and good times. ☎ 71275

Regular Guy Seeks Buddy+More!
 Masculine WPM outside the scene, tall fit goodlooking, 51, active outdoor and varied indoor interests seeks similar 45-55 for serious relationship. Must be HIV neg. N/S, N/D. ☎ 71250

Hairy Top*
 G/BI WM wanted. Me: 150# hairless GWM mid 40, 7" cut, into most interest. Great for fuck buddy. ☎ 71251

HIV+GBM SKS GWM Dominant Top
 6ft 175, 38 masculine but submissive. Prefer affectionate small build. Don't be PC. Tell me how you want me to take it. ☎ 71252

"Muscular Monogamous Man!"
 Into TV, pop culture, dancing, cooking, exercise, lit play/body worship; seeks muscular GM for S.F. dates. I'm Asian, young 51, 5'7", 150#, HIV-neg. NS, ND, no anal. ☎ 71253

—That Caribbean Touch!—
 Spanish man raised in the Spanish Caribbean seeks other GM for sex and fun. I am a top, 5'8", 155#, well endowed, salt and pepper hair, into yoga & jogging. Very political progressive avid reader, financially independent, good cook and love to travel. Into GWM as well as Latin Americans and Europeans. HIV-, but very HIV+ sensitive. ☎ 71274

VGL Latino "Boy" ISO Hot "Daddy!"
 Me: 5'7", 135#, HIV+, goatee, fun and romantic. You: GWM, 40-55, goodlooking, financially secure. Dad type ISO. Please Call! ☎ 71276

POZ GBM ISO Vers GWM Bottom
 6ft, 180lbs. ISO affectionate/submissive GWM/GLM. Prefer slim, short, small build and smooth. ☎ 71277

"Goodlooking Masculine Rugged!"
 Man looking for another for deep friendship and romance. I am good hearted, intelligent, N/S, N/D, bottom. I like rugged hairy tops with good hearts and nice cock. ☎ 71278

-----Suck Buddy-----
 Uncut GWM 5'-10", 165#, 7", large balls, HIV-, disease free, non smoker, ISO regular suck buddy, White, Latino, Asian, North Bay a plus. ☎ 71279

GWM Seeks Goodlooking Male For...
 Friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 41, slim trim and fit. Like the outdoors, quiet, romantic evenings at home, loving one another and building a life together. "Let's make it happen!" ☎ 71280

***Friends, Friends, Friends, Help!**
 Partner & friends have sh# passed. Looking for buddies to do things with. Can be into many different things. Need someone to share time with. ☎ 71281

"Italian Guys I Am Looking!"
 For Italian men who are hung or good looking or just plain Italian guys for sex, fun or relationship. ☎ 71282

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Healthy HIV+ Bodybuilding
 37yrs old 5'8", 155# brn skin, warm, sincere, looking 4 masculine slim guy NS/ND, under 40yrs., small nice butt. Live in SF. No to conservative. ☎ 71188

Black Men Who Would Enjoy The..
 Services offered by a submissive white bottom who enjoys wearing lingerie and being your white pussy. 5'8", 155# satisfaction on a regular basis. ☎ 71189

Gay Cherokee Wants Boyfriends!
 I am from Oklahoma, love blondes. Drop me a line, I love Mike Crews, Charles Ely, Zakhanson, Aaron Carter, & Michael Lucas. ☎ 71190

"Love To Suck Horny Men!"
 Any race-age 30-50 yrs. old. (I'm 6', 165 GWM). 6" or more. Ok under 200lbs. "Please." If you feel horny-Just call me. I also go deep! ☎ 71191

Brazilian 5'7", 142# Seeking "GWM"
 Warm, funny, attractive. 36yr old. Nice dick, clean, stable, sincere, looking 4 fun maybe more. I live in Concord. I'm willing to travel. ☎ 71192

Jerk You Off?
 Want to strip, be tied up & fondled? Have your nipples, balls & hole teased? Tortured? Attractive, fit GWM, 40s, 6', HIV- prefers polite muscular boys, 25-50. ☎ 71193

~Hot Bottom Boys!~
 46yrs. 5'10" brn brn, hairychest, workout, hot, hard 9", looking for bubble butt bottoms. ☎ 71194

Bi—Curious Seeks Couple
 Who will grind pelvises together while I lick both and j/o w/a, any age be patient; sensitive to my inexperience. 6'1" w 210 blk, grn. ☎ 71195

—Foreskin Service—
 Muscular, fit W/M 45 needs uncut stud with low hangers to unload on my face. Love foreskin and big balls. I'm in Sonoma Co., but can travel. ☎ 71209

Hot, Masc, Horny WM Seeks Same
You: under 30, tall, clean-cut, hung, top/vers, WM. Me: 6'2", 175, brown/blue, clean-cut. Besides sex, you should like movies, sports, dogs, outdoors, home-cooking and cuddling. ☎ 71210

Looking For Sweet Black Daddy
Bi WM late 40's want older Black man, 50's, 60's. Retired, seniors- let me touch, stoke, kiss suck, serve your big thing & take care of it. Castro area. ☎ 71211

Palo Alto 44, 5'11" 190 Blk-Brn
GAM seeks top man for oral maneuvers. Will drive to you. Also likes bare bottom spankings. ☎ 71212

"Sonoma County Dad!"
Would love to pamper and service very pretty, androgynous young men. 18-25. Let me indulge you. I am generous, fun, very oral. ☎ 71213

"Safeway Smile, Market Street"
You've got a great smile. Wednesday 6p.m. 4/11. Check out lines. Let's meet for lunch. ☎ 71214

Poz GBM Sks Wht Cock sucker
37, 175 6ft wants slim build Wht boy. Be under 35 & into kissing & sucking. A+ for needy or short. ☎ 71215

—Look No Further!—
SWM, cute, athletic, 42/6/175, HIV-neg, br/br, hairy, clean & homo, looking to serve similar attractive, clean, hung, & HIV neg dude regularly, my place SF. No reciprocation necessary. ☎ 71216

Dominant Mature GWM
ISO submissive well built HIV- GWM to train for my pleasure. Total obedience and discipline a must for this 6'3" daddy-master. ☎ 71217

Art, Photography, Books
Berkeley Artist late 60's, 5'9"/150 sensual, active, healthy, seeks GWM/GAM, slight build, 25-45 for ongoing passionate friendship. ☎ 71231

"ISO Leather Daddy?"
In-shape, blond, 45yo, HIV- son/boy, seeks hung leather daddy 60- plus into perverse play- bootlicking, piss, smbd, cut work, butt play & whatever turns you on. I get off serving mature leather tops- and so do they! ☎ 71232

Str8 Hairy Stud ISO Xpert Head!
Love 2b sucked off. My old lady won't do it. Ex-Navy man. Shaved head, stach, go-t. 6'160/7" cut. Mushroom head. Big hairy butt & nuts. "Get me outta the men's john & in 2 the sack, jack!" Jockstrap has me hot 4 a deep milking. ☎ 71233

"Black Men!"- WM 5'8", 155 Seeks
3 to 4 Black men to service and be their White pussy bitch for a weekend at my place. This bitch will take care of all needs as instructed. ☎ 71234

"I Love Giving Head!"
To hot White & Latino guys 30-45. Me: 6'2" 200lbs, GWM- great mouth and throat for your pleasure. HIV- please. Lv msg. ☎ 71235

—Asian Top!—
Seeking submissive bottom White boy slave for painfully loving encounters. Boy should be clean-shaven, thin to average build, much younger preferred. I'm 39, 5'6", 140lbs. ☎ 71237

Blonde Daddies Boy Great Butt
For the right man. Be tall and big play daddy scenes, daytime verbal & exciting. Aroma A+. ☎ 71238

•FF Butts Wanted-
Make me copy of any FF tape, in return my med hands up your butt for hours. BM 5'8", 185 welcome any race, your place. ☎ 71239

SR GWM ISO Mature GBM
For mutual touch, J/O. I'm 60's, 5'9", 155# bearded. You're 45+ clean/healthy, medium to beefy. Facial hair A+. N/D ☎ 71240

"Between Boyfriends?"
Oral service for lean tight guy with big meat. Blacks A+. Juicy head from experience sword swallower, with brains, sense of humor, 40's. Call me. ☎ 71241

"This Boy Needs Some Lovin!"
For mutual touch, J/O. I'm 60's, 5'9", 155# bearded. You're 45+ clean/healthy, medium to beefy. Facial hair A+. N/D ☎ 71242

—Enjoy Hot Phone?—
Then give me a call. GWM, 45, 165lbs, 7"cut. Enjoy mutual oral sex and being a top. Am good at tuning into your desires. No S/M. ☎ 71243

Masculine, Hairy, Hung!
HIV- 5-9, blue eyes, salt pepper hair, 61 in great shape. Into arts, exercise, professional, Santa Cruz, dating or picture exchange for preview ok. ☎ 71256

GWM Seeks Man Of Color Top!
For friendship, sex, possibly more. I am 46, blonde, HIV+, slim. Like outdoors, nature, mutual massage, the arts, music. Please call. ☎ 71257

—Foreskin Lover!—
GWM 50yo loves to give head to uncult men any age race, cut cock ok if over 8". Long slow and deep. Lay back and relax. No games. ☎ 71258

"I Suck Asian Cock!"
Attractive White boy, early 30's, loves uncut Asian cock. If you're Asian, 20-30's, and have a nice uncut cock, I'll suck you off. You can feed it all to me! ☎ 71259

•Weightlifting Nude-
Have bench, barbell, dumbbells. Strip down, workout. Am 48, 5'9", 190. You can participate or just watch me workout. ☎ 71260

Santa Rosa, S.F. On Wknds
48- 5'9". 145#, gymtoned, tan, handsome & hot, stable, sincere, Spiritual. Enjoy hot tub, massage, & hot sex- seeks in shape guys only. ☎ 71261

Balls, Balls, Balls...
Very Bi curious goodlooking w/50 to kiss, fondle, lick, suck, loose long hangers mutual J/O, maybe more a/w any age/weight. ☎ 71262

Seeking Mature Man Of Color!
SWM, 38, 5'7", 140, brn/blue, cute, boyish, witty, charming, educated, very oral, bottom but also versatile. Uncut, HIV-. For safe sexual fun. Older+, uncut+, Black+, Latin+. ☎ 71264

Pete Is Coming & NDS 2b Rode!
Horny, hunky Italian, formerly of Sanchez Street & now residing in Orlando, will be visiting SF may 1st thru 18th. Total btm, nds to get screwed- a lot. Don't miss it. ☎ 71265

"Naughty Butt Nice!"
Me: goodlooking, 5'8", 155#, smooth, 48yo. Hot bottom needs spanking, probing, & discipline. You: trim daddy, or other, who enjoys a sub-boy. ☎ 71263

"ISO Tit Pigs!!!!"
Hungry to suck on my big beaut nips, masculine, dominant dad 52yo solid tight muscular bod. Shaved head, tats, defined hairy chest w big nips. Also ISO men who are huge, not just big tits. ☎ 71283

"AI"- SF, 4-22-01
AI of SF. You responded to my ad #71131, "Older Black Men" on 4/22. Your phone number was incomplete. Please call again. ☎ 71285

—Attention Hairy Guys!—
U turn me on! 42yo. Hot bottom wants to service your needs & make you feel good! HIV- only! Lv msg. ☎ 71290

Hairy Top GBI WM Wanted!
Me: 150# slim hairless GWM mid 40's cut into butt, dick. Play open to most role clothing WS & other kink. ☎ 71286

Wanted: "Hung Guys!"
I am looking for guys who are hung "9" inches or larger for a fun time with me. I am hung "9" so give me a call. ☎ 71287

•Striptease: Lost Art?
SF connoisseur, seeks only cut Caucasian or Hispanic masculine star, 20-32, mid- twenties preferred. Impressive face and physique, charisma and presentation skills required. Safe, confidential fun! ☎ 71288

"Hot, Horny, Asian Into Sex!"
I'm lots of fun, high energy. 5'7", 129lbs with lean, tanned build. Into exploring different scenes. Slender guys big plus! Age/race not important. ☎ 71289

Milkman Looking For Good Gumjob
If you're a "toothless tiger" and can deep-throat a big head while "gummin'" the base of a thick shaft, I'm your man. 6', 170, 43, laid-back man. Long chew sessions a real turn-on! ☎ 71284

Shy? Working Out Your Body? Do
You like looking at yourself? Feeling yourself? "Good!" Would you like to show it off as I watch & encourage you? Compliment you? Me: handsome Latin 40, house in Sonoma County. ☎ 71236

Wanted: Hung Men For Servicing
Goodlooking White guy 40, 188, with dark brown hair, mustache, smooth body, and blue eyes seeks well endowed men for sucking. Only men between 20-45 need apply. All nationalities welcome. ☎ 71291

•Voyeur!
50's gay couple seeks third to watch. ☎ 71292

FETISHES

"Scat!"
GWM in his 50's, looking for a BM into scat. ☎ 71196

Major Leather, Fetish Action!
Seeks others with fantasies and fetishes with leather. GWM, looks hot in full leather with cock, balls and ass. Hanging out of chaps. Asians welcome. Serious leather fetish only. ☎ 71197

"Fisting Bottoms Wanted!"
By Latino guy who loves to play with yours. Must be under 50 and have your own place and toys. I want to stretch your asshole. ☎ 71198

"Daytime Asshole-Eater!"
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71222

"Straight Slave Begs!"
For sirs to train this slave, to suck cock and to discipline, degrade this slave. Please call with your orders. ☎ 71218

Ass Master's Thesis!
Bearded WM, 42, seeks muscle butt studs as research subjects for thesis entitled, "The effects of athletics on the male anus." Examination table involved. ☎ 71219

Furry Lips And Open Throat?
Hung Black Oakland daddy, 47, enjoys watching and feeling a thick mustache bouncing on my power-toot. Please no beards/goatees, voicemalls or beginners. Late afternoons, late evenings. ☎ 71220

Nude Diled Wrestling, Playful
To erotic. All skill levels for one-on-one or tag team matches. Hairy chested, 38yo. GWM seeks similar types. ☎ 71221

Healthy Kinky 58 Y.O.
Bottom manufactures plenty of warm brown lube so you'll never stop at a drugstore. ☎ 71244

"I Clean Dirty Cocks".....
And strap-ons after and before you go in. Humiliation and piss needed by this healthy 58 yo, bottom guy. Phone-- ☎ 71245

Seeks Nip Pig Wk-Out Buddy!
I'm a 46yr, old aggressive bottom "Nip-Pig" bear, with huge erect nipples! I'm stocky! 200# brn, brn, salt & pepper goatee, tat's, piercings, smoker! ISO super masc., muscular dominate "Bear Daddy" nip-pig for serious nipple wk outs & growth in mind! Smokers A+. Please call! ☎ 71246

Derby Dudes/ Cholos, Skimasks
Skinhead, 28, bootstomper seeks chols, thugs, punks, old school guys who wear derby jackets, Ben Davis, steel toe boots. I dig servicing. ☎ 71247

Nipple Workout Partner Let's
Work on each others nipple until we explode. All levels of experience. GWM, 38yo, hairy chest seeks similar. ☎ 71264

"Queer Skinhead Into Aggro"
OI, mate! Queer skinhead, 5'8", 142, muscled, tattooed, goateed, hairy, ISO mates into OI, boots, skinsex, Rough Aggro- kicking, stomping, wrestling, boxing, fistfighting, stom, leather. ☎ 71265

•Shaved Upper Bodies•
Tall shaved WHM wishes to video large persons of any race or gender who have smooth chests and shaved pits. ☎ 71293

"Seeking Guy With Piss Load!"
You good hose, any race, HIV-neg. I'm 6', 155, HIV-neg, early 50's, East Bay, thirsty, have W/S tapes and camcorder. ☎ 71294

—Seeking Discipline!—
WM, generous, seeks younger defined strict yet understanding WM for progressive bi-monthly corporal punishment sessions including whipping, humiliation & foot worship. ☎ 71295

Beat This Man....
This queer mature pervert requires a beating periodically. Good for younger fit sadist. Please inquire! ☎ 71296

"Daytime Asshole-Eater!"
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 71297

•(Always Thirsty)•
50yo HIV- piss dad seeks healthy HIV- kickback top with full bladder and balls that need regular draining pissy underwear A+, willing to train. ☎ 71298

Big Men!!
WLM 45, 6', 160lbs. I'm attracted to very heavyset men who enjoy slow sensual oral pleasure. Gainers, non-exercisers, kissers, cuddlers A+. Not into gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71299

COUPLES

All Nighter W/2 Waiting For U
Attractive GWM 5'11", 185#, 40, top & 5'10", 155#, 31, bottom/vers. I.S.O. versatile, attractive, gay, men 21-35 desiring 9" 7", tight ass, for Explosive Hot Sex, no fems. HIV-preference. ☎ 71266

"Looking For Three, Four Way Action"
If you're a couple looking for another HOT, masculine male who knows how to use his cock, give me a call. I'm 6', 185lbs. GBM, 5'. You guys won't be disappointed. Looking to have a good time. Masculine and muscular men only. ☎ 71300

OTHERS

GWM Stud ISO Mature Pig Btm 4
Wkend studs. Outcast/ironviny dong is achen 28 milkeddy. 6', 160, 47, hairy, Ex/USN. BuzzsackGOT. Dig longslodeep CS w/holddof, tongue, prost8 rubs, gumjobs, saliva, sweat & lotsa cumy romance. Soak my Big Bush w/drool! ☎ 71111

Englishman Seeks Woman!
HIV-, University graduate, for marriage of convenience for right woman. ☎ 71267

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True or false?

What's up in May galleries

by Will Shank

Truth and Illusion seems to be the theme of a number of painters and photographers showing in the city this month.

San Francisco artist Jonathan Hammer, who is represented in New York by Matthew Marks, has been strangely overlooked in San Francisco. Refusalon (20 Hawthorne St., tel. 546-0158) is trying to fix that with a handsome installation of Hammer's latest photographs. The underground gallery, which is often transformed into a performance space or otherwise altered into something other than a traditional exhibition space, provides a surprisingly elegant setting for Hammer's large C-prints, which are presented in plain wooden frames against warm gray walls. The content belies the stately presentation, however, and there are many levels of meaning to consider in Hammer's work.

Steamy photos of various sites in Brazil are altered digitally to include the most disconcerting figures lurking between buildings, or flying through the sky. A sense of danger pervades the otherwise touristy photos, the largest of which shows a fabricated scene ("Plaza of the Pelourinho") where a phallic whipping-post commands a public square in real life. In the photo, transparent figures of a seemingly jolly nature (a

clown, a wooden hand-toy acrobat) are superimposed on the scene, conjuring up ghosts of souls who have passed through what appears to be a benevolent contemporary scene. (The red nose of a clown comes from a tradition of nasal mutilation that preceded public torture; did you know that?) The figures are Hammer's own drawings, manipulated to look three-dimensional, and then imposed upon the scene both physically and emotionally. Closes May 26.

There are only six of Nicky Hoberman's large, colorful paintings at Rena Bransten Gallery (77 Geary St., tel. 982-3292), but they certainly fill a room. The British painter renders her female, or wannabe female, figures with a hyperrealism, then distorts them, or crops them in half, and decorates them with outrageous wigs or over-the-top drag. The juxtaposition of little girls playing dress-up and London drag queens making a living playing dress-up is a jarring one. Her paintings, which appear to be air-brushed acrylics but which are, in fact, oils, are on view through June 2.

San Francisco artist Jeffrey Long has returned from several years in New York, and his thoughtful latest paintings are on view this month at 49 Geary at Toomey-Tourell. While Long's work initially appears abstract, hidden mysteries lie not far beneath



Jonathan Hammer's 'Plaza of the Pelourinho' is part of an installation at Refusalon.

the surface. Maps and print, handwritten words and other patterns from man and nature comprise the meticulously crafted geometric shapes of the paintings. The written word has played an important part in Long's work for some time, and a particularly moving work here exploits his fascination with language as a reflection of socio-cultural phenomena. Long shows the route of slave trade from Africa to America, and the words that seem to swim the waters between the two continents show the transformation of the slaves' names into their American aliases.

Wax museum

Fraenkel Gallery is showing the truly disconcerting gelatin silver print "portraits" of Hiroshi Sugimoto. Winston Churchill stares out of his frame at the viewer in a typical bulldog stance. Princess Diana, demure in a beaded-gown, casts a sideways glance at the camera. Then there is ... Rembrandt? Several of the wives of Henry VIII? Photographs they are, but the models are wax effigies of the

real thing. The elegance of the portraits is difficult to balance with the facsimile nature of the subject, and the details that separate the "real" from the "false" beg for the viewer's attention. But then, how "real" is a photograph? The concept reminds me of the famous Magritte painting, in which a painting on an easel of a "fake" landscape appears in front of a window showing a "real" landscape. But of course there is nothing real about the entire artifice.

If you can't afford a "real" Sugimoto, there is a rather nice poster of a wax Queen Elizabeth II for \$15. Through June 30 at 49 Geary.

For something more solid, see the latest work of Peter Voukos at Braunstein/Quay Gallery (430 Clementina, 278-9850). If not as sensuous as his early work, the rough-hewn ceramics still command respect. Voukos, now well into his 70s, has managed to blur the line between craft and art over the past several decades, and if his "stacks" resemble functional chimneys (I noticed that some are, in fact, used as ashtrays by the

artist), it is still a pleasure to consider them from every possible angle. The gallery has mounted the freestanding works on revolving pedestals, and gallery visitors are encouraged to spin them. I prefer the wall-mounted discs, whose cracked textures remind me of the paintings of Spain's Antoni Tàpies. Through June 2.

At Gallery Paule Anglim (14 Geary, also through June 2), local artist Gay Outlaw is showing her latest work in the small back room. Best known for her sculptures made of fruitcakes and sugar, Outlaw has in recent years moved on to industrial materials. A series of rubber tubing, cut on the bias like asparagus and wall-mounted, reflects her recent monumental sculpture ("Black Hose Mountain" at the Berkeley Art Museum) of the same material. Installed nearby on the floor are a group of resin sculptures which appear to be the "negative" of the rubber "positive." Their holes, perforations and pores give the sculptures a sensuality that the new Prada building will never have. ▼

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Insufferable times two

by Robert Julian

In Maremma by David Leavitt and Mark Mitchell; Counterpoint, \$24

Touted as a memoir/travel book, *In Maremma* allows authors David Leavitt and Mark Mitchell to reveal themselves in ways they would not, if they knew what they were doing. This exceedingly thin work describes their process of buying and rehabilitating a '50s tract home in Maremma, the poorest province in Tuscany (how do you spell "down-market pretentiousness?") It is not well-written or organized, and it illuminates little outside the authors' own self-absorption.

We are offered superficial tales of Italian laborers and neighbors who all witness the challenges Leavitt and Mitchell face ordering furniture, painting, and hiring contractors. The book is full of musings like, "as we began our new life in Italy, we wanted to learn to edit our possessions more stringently: to own a few things, but lovely things. What need had we of closets?" What need, indeed. The unintended double-entendre here is that the authors, a gay couple, spend the entire book talking about their rural Italian life-



Co-author Mark Mitchell

among-the-little-people, yet never once think to comment on the reaction of these same people to having a gay American couple in their midst. They are more obsessed with relating the minutiae of ordering fabric from London design studios.

One can only wish the authors well in their challenges dealing with their own Tuscan fabulousness. But individually or collectively, if Leavitt and Mitchell really had a life, they wouldn't be writing books like this one. ▼

Havana hijinks

by Robert Julian

Adios Muchachos by Daniel Chavarria; Akashic Books, \$13.95

From its trashy, pulp-fiction cover, you know the first Daniel Chavarria novel to be translated into English will not take you into Masterpiece Theater territory. This Uruguayan novelist spins a loony, captivating yarn about a scheming Havana hooker named Alicia who is determined to get her exceedingly fetching ass out of Cuba. She meets her match in the form of Canadian businessman Victor King, a Mel Gibson lookalike and calculating manipulator who is attempting to launch a tourist Mecca for divers off the coast of Cuba.

Adios Muchachos includes a crossdressing Dutch multimillionaire as the gay linchpin who keeps Alicia and Victor's dreams alive — until his unfortunate accidental death. At this point in the story, Alicia and Victor have to act fast to prevent the discovery of her wild sexual escapades with dozens of partners, all captured on videotape by Victor at the home of the deceased Dutchman. The plan:



hide the evidence, then fake a kidnapping and try to extort money from the dead man's family.

Chavarria's work is in the long-standing tradition of picaresque comic novels. His story is fast-paced and filled with lots of titillating sexual episodes that are as amusing as they are erotic. And his vision of present-day Cuba, as a country where everyone hustles something, rings true. *Adios Muchachos* is a fun read, perfect escapism for the reader seeking lightweight farce. ▼



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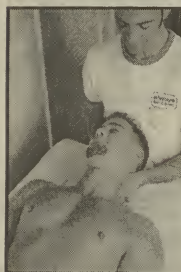
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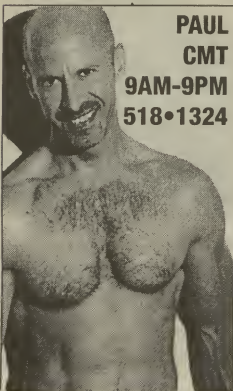
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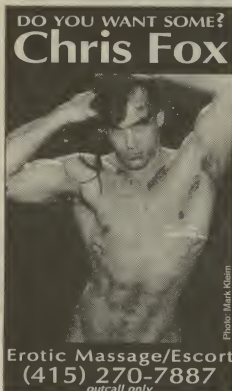
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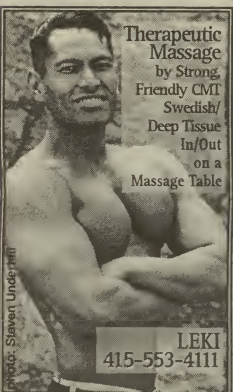


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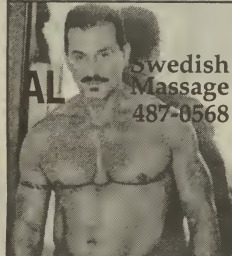
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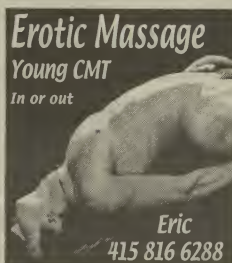


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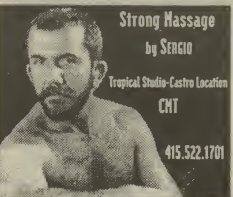
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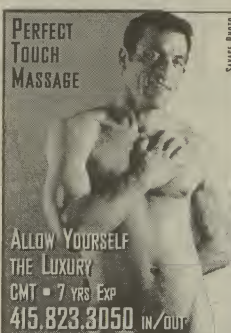
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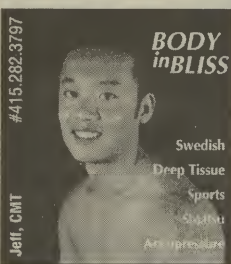
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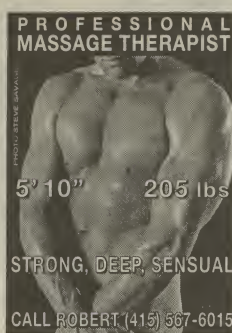
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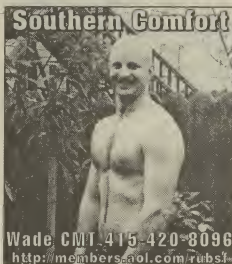


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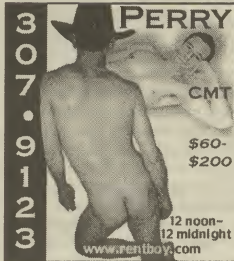


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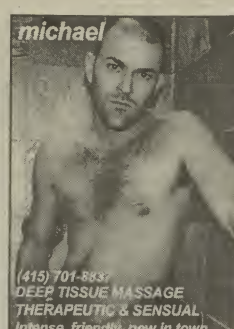
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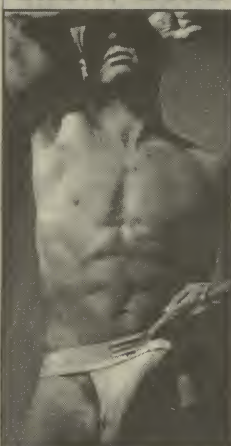
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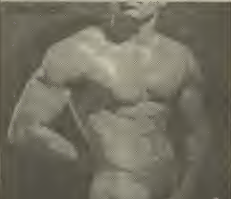
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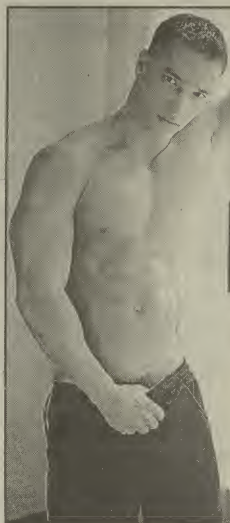
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Lean, athletic body-top/vers.
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Lean smooth leather top, 32,
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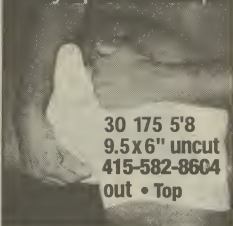
Hung top 24hrs In/out

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Bodybuilder,
220lbs,6'1",52ch,21"A,
26 years.

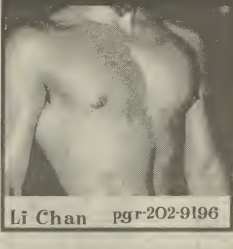
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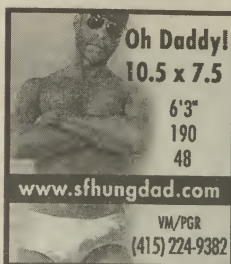
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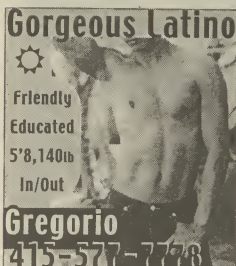
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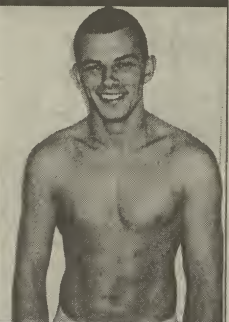
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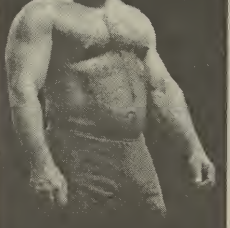
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Ale, 242-4230, 24hrs. in/out

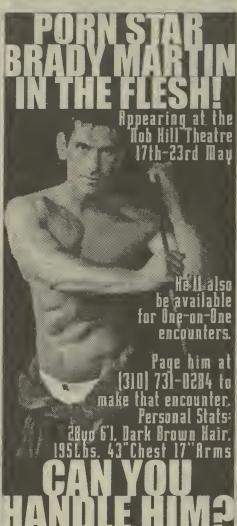
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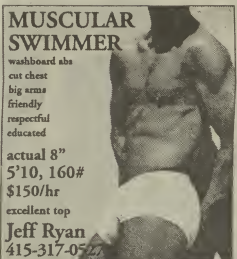


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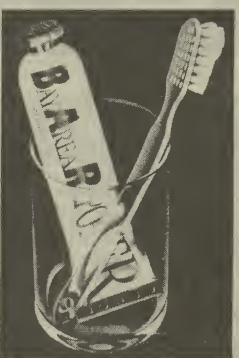
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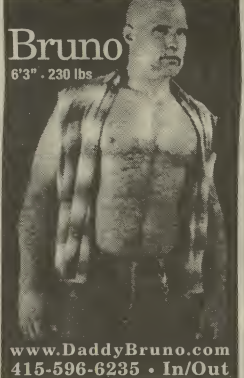
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Handsome 24yo w/packed shorts
SOCCER JOCK
Lean, athletic body-top/vers.
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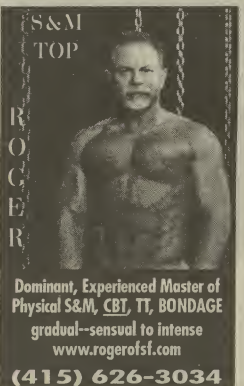
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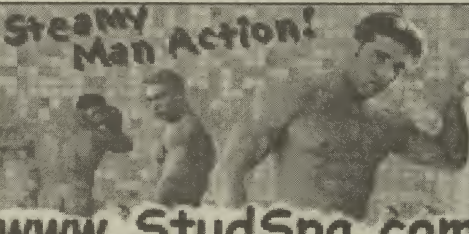
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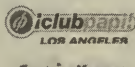
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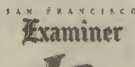
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